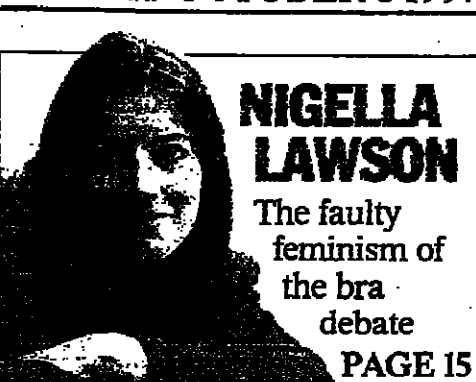




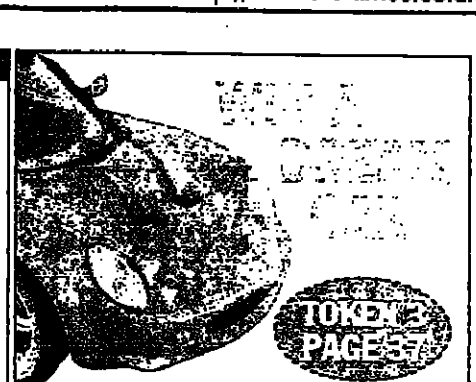
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Leader endorsed by 80% of members

Hague slaps down Tory 'dinosaurs'

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

WILLIAM HAGUE exerted his new authority over the Conservative Party last night by slapping down two Tory veterans over controversial remarks at conference fringe meetings.

Hours after his overwhelming endorsement as party leader, Mr Hague demonstrated his determination to impose discipline by disowning Lord Tebbit for speaking out against a multicultural society and criticising Alan Clark for saying that the only way to deal with the IRA was to kill 600 people in one night.

A source close to the Tory leader described the two former ministers as "dinosaurs on the rampage" while Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, publicly denounced his erstwhile colleagues. He disagreed with Lord Tebbit, saying: "We do live in a multicultural society and we seem to be getting on well," and he described Mr Clark's remarks as wrong-headed, offensive and out of court.

Lord Tebbit had told a fringe meeting: "Multiculturalism is divisive. One cannot uphold two sets of ethics or be loyal to two nations, any more than a man can have two masters. It perpetuates ethnic divisions because nationality is more about culture than ethnicity. Youngsters born here should be taught that British history is their history, or they will forever be foreigners holding British passports and this kingdom will become a Yugoslavia."

But Mr Hague's officials denounced the speech, saying: "William Hague wants to build a multicultural society. Norman Tebbit has his views. They are not the views of the leadership. Tebbit gives the impression of intolerance. William is all about tolerance."

As his speech showed today, Mr Hague's address had included a call for "patriotism without bigotry" and an appeal for more blacks and Asians to join the party.

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Mr Clark's gaffe came during a question-and-answer session in which he was asked how to deal with the IRA. He replied: "The only solution is to kill 600 people in one night — let the UN and Bill Clinton and everyone else make a scene — and it is over for 20 years." He prefaced his remarks by saying that everyone knew his view, but Mr Hague's spokesman said the comments were unhelpful and unconstructive, especially given the part played by the Conservative Government in the peace process.

The no-nonsense line taken against the former ministers was in tune with events on the opening day of the Blackpool conference, where speakers were applauded when they blamed divisions and arrogance for the party's worst election defeat.

John Major — who was given a hero's welcome — suggested that MPs divided views, expressed without restraint, "made our positions impossible". He emphasised the importance of the party pulling together behind the new leader and promised: "I'm backing William. I'm backing him because he's an able man of talent and integrity with a tough job ahead."

He even got away with an apparent sideswipe at Baroness Thatcher when he added: "I propose to give William Hague the unqualified support — in public and in private — that he has a right to expect from his predecessor."

Gillian Shephard, too, was cheered when she said that Tory supporters felt that too often they had been let down

by people in the parliamentary party. Mr Hague himself said that the Tories had lost, in part, because the parliamentary party came to be seen as divided, arrogant, selfish and conceited.

Mr Hague, who had won the ballot endorsing his leadership and the principle of party reforms with more than 80 per cent support, pleased the conference with a forceful, frank and assured speech. Many who had never seen him speak before were pleasantly surprised.

He said that he had no illusions about the mammoth task ahead, but he pledged to do everything in his power to rebuild the party — not for himself, the MPs, or even the activists — but for the millions in Britain who shared Tory values and needed a united and strong Tory party.

"This is the week when we draw a line in the sand," he said. "The week when we stop apologising. The week when we get up off our knees and stand tall again. This is the week when the whole world will see that the Conservatives are back in business."

Once again echoing the Blairite reforms in the Labour Party, Mr Hague said that reform and modernisation would be the foundations of his leadership and that was why the two issues had been linked in the ballot. Just over 180,000 members voted in that ballot, with 143,000 backing Mr Hague, who pronounced himself well pleased with the outcome — although more than 100,000 members did not vote.

Mr Hague will now hold six months of consultations on his "green paper" entitled *Blueprint for Change*. Under his proposals, all wings of the party would be unified under a new constitution, and after the sleaze rows of recent years, an ethics committee would be set up to investigate and discipline those who brought the party into disrepute.



The Queen, wearing socks in deference to Muslim practice, at the Faisal Mosque

The Queen puts on navy socks for pomp and prayer

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

THE Queen paid tribute last night to Diana, Princess of Wales, telling a state banquet on the first day of her state visit to Pakistan that it had been "a source of comfort and strength to know that people round the world have shared our grief at Diana's tragic, early death."

She added: "On behalf of the British nation I thank you, and all the people of Pakistan, for the sympathy and feeling you have shown." She commended the Princess's work in Pakistan, which she visited as a government guest and unofficially to see the Lahore cancer hospital started by Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain.

The Queen's comments in a brief speech at the Presidential Palace added an emotional note to a day of formality and protocol.

In a canary yellow suit and navy blue socks and carrying a white handbag, she entered the echoing vastness of the Faisal Mosque to view one of the many architectural masterpieces of this small, almost comatose, city.

The mosque, the main prayer hall of which can accommodate 10,000 people, is one of the world's largest, as the Queen might have realised as she padded through some of its vast marble porticos and verandas.

It is unusual for women to enter mosques in Pakistan. The Queen was escorted into a gap between prayers and was required to remove her shoes, donning what looked suspiciously like British Airways-issue woolly footwear.

But it provided a gentle beginning to a week of engagements as part of celebrations marking the country's 50th birthday. It was a day of military bands, award ceremonies and formal meetings. It passed without her meeting anybody but dignitaries, save for the children of staff at the British High Commission, who let out two welcoming yells.

The Queen encountered pictures of herself and the Duke of Edinburgh painted all over a truck parked at the High Commissioner's residence — an example of truck art which turns lorries into gaudy chariots that fly blindly along Pakistan's maniacal highways. This particular specimen will soon be back hauling goats and grain, possibly "By Appointment".

President Farooq Leghari told the Queen her visit was the "high point" of Pakistan's celebrations. In truth, Pakistan is too broke to provide lavish events for its 130 million people. A quarter of its budget is earmarked for defence and almost half for debt servicing.

Before an exchange of awards a mullah recited a prayer, which was repeated in English, in which he spoke of the need for forgiveness and declaring that "whatever is given here is but a convenience in this life". For several moments the Queen held her hands in her lap and looked down, her eyes closed.

Hollywood plans film about Diana

A Hollywood film company announced yesterday it has bought the rights to use Diana, Princess of Wales's words from Andrew Morton's new bestseller to make a film about her marriage break-up.

This latest deal involving the taped interviews made by the Princess brought condemnation from her family. Her brother, Earl Spencer, was said to be upset that an actress will use the Princess's words. He will ask lawyers if he can stop the film using the transcripts. Page 3

Shadow on talks

The first full-scale peace negotiations involving Unionists, nationalists, loyalists and republicans at Stormont yesterday was overshadowed by the resignation of Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, and diminished by the absence of the Ulster Unionist Party's leaders. Page 2

Inflation shock

A surprise rise in the headline rate of inflation to 3.6 per cent in September from 3.5 per cent in August will add extra costs to the social security budget next year and could jeopardise the Government's spending plans. Page 25

Oxbridge could be facing extinction

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

AN apocalyptic vision of the demise of Britain's top universities was painted by Oxford's vice-chancellor yesterday in a searing attack on the Government's higher education spending review.

Dr Peter North issued a warning that cutting the £35 million that now supports the college system at Oxford and

Cambridge would "destroy their competitive position on the world scene".

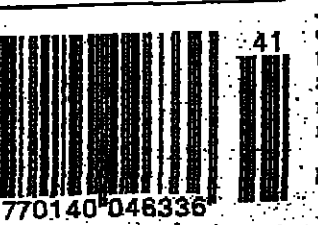
Many talented academics would lose their jobs, world-famous historical collections would be jeopardised, and the standards of teaching and research would suffer, he said.

Oxford has gone on the offensive in the wake of leaks suggesting that ministers believe the extra public money for Oxford and Cambridge is "increasingly difficult to defend". The funding, equivalent to nearly £2,000 for each student every year, preserves the college system, which ensures one-to-one tutorial teaching, whereas students at other universities are taught in large groups.

On Monday, Brian Pender, chief executive of the Higher Education Funding Council, visited Oxford to begin confidential talks with the two universities on the future of college fees. His visit came in response to Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education in July, which called for a review of the £35 million college fees of the £35 million college fees to see if "this substantial addition to standard funding" represented "a good use of resources".

Dr North, in his last oration before retiring as vice-chancellor, continued on page 2, col 3

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Scientists use human cells to grow spare parts for body

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A PIONEERING method of growing body tissue will soon make it possible to produce an almost complete range of body spare parts for transplants.

The technique, known as tissue engineering, has already produced skin grafts, but is now being used to grow bone, cartilage and ligament. The same method can be used to build livers and heart muscle.

"This is not science fiction," said Gail Naughton, one of the pioneers of the process. "Now we have worked out the technology, there is no limit to what we can do."

Ms Naughton, whose company in San Diego, California, has led the research into tissue engineering, said yesterday she expected trials to start within nine months in Britain and the United States on transplanted knee joints.

"This will have enormous advantages for sportsmen who can be put out of action by a serious injury for a very long time," she said. "We have already successfully transplanted such joints into sheep and rabbits and there is no reason now why we cannot do the same for humans."

Tissue engineering involves using an incubator to recreate the conditions of a womb, which allows cells to grow naturally to any shape and size on to a framework made of biodegradable threads. This was the technique used recently to grow a human ear shape on to a mouse in a laboratory experiment.

"Transplant surgery has made enormous advances in recent years and the only real limitation is the availability of donors," Ms Naughton said. "With this process we can create all the tissue needed and know that it is safe."

Those receiving a transplant would not donate their own

tissue because this would need to be grown for several weeks before it could be used and would, in any case, probably not be as healthy as that which had been grown in the incubator.

As the spare part is living tissue, it grows with the body after a transplant.

This means, for example, that a hip replacement will fuse naturally into place, unlike artificial joints made of plastic and metal, which have to be pinned or glued.

Another potential use would be in surgery on faces badly disfigured by road accidents. Bone tissue cut precisely to the right shape can be built into cheeks and jaws to restore the shape of a victim's face.

The first tissue-engineered product available is a skin graft developed to help diabetic sufferers who develop foot ulcers that refuse to heal and which can lead to amputation. Successful trials in Britain and America have shown that it is a quicker, cheaper and more certain cure than any conventional treatment for these ulcers.

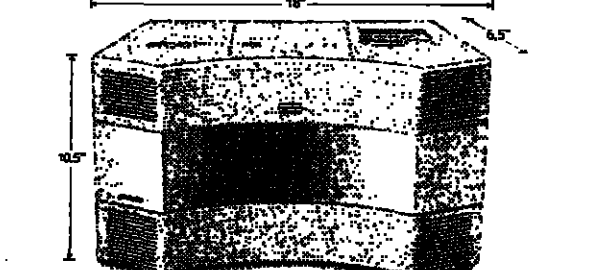
The pioneer, page 2



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Faithful few fight blithely on amid debris of defeat

SECURITY for this Tory Party conference has been much reduced. Nobody even wants to kill them anymore. Quoting Isaiah, the Vicar of St John the Evangelist gave it to them straight. "A voice cries in the wilderness," he declared. Conservative representatives at prayer in Blackpool's Winter Gardens at the start of the conference yesterday knew just what he meant.

They sang "Through many a day of darkness/Through many a scene of strife/The faithful few fought bravely/To guard the nation's life." The faithful few, gathered for mutual comfort and support, were conscious that the days of darkness are still upon them.

What do you say to such a congregation? "Rise up on eagles' wings!" continued the vicar. A thousand Tory faces were uplifted to the Bald Eagle himself, their new leader. Could he do it? Were his wings strong enough?

William Hague tried a preliminary flutter before lunch. If he did not exactly soar, he hovered successfully for about 20 minutes — a feat that was the more impressive for following an introduction from Lord Parkinson. After listing



Mr Hague's virtues, the party chairman had planned to end his speech — to wild applause — with a ringing call: "From Oxbridge to Uxbridge, Hague's the right man for the job."

He delivered this plonker as scripted, and waited for applause. There was complete silence. "You're supposed to clap," yelled Parkinson, and scuttled back to his seat. But it was not really Parkinson's fault. There is something chilling about the Tories' stage set. The lower they sink, the more monumental becomes their backdrop. Constructed from a quantity of fuzzyfelt sufficient to upholster ten battalions of Teletubbies, the set rises behind the podium in a line of 20ft sharks' fins, dwarfing the platform party. The effect is of indescribable menace.

In the middle of the fins

hovers what appears to be an enormous illuminated biscuit in partial eclipse. The whole thing is lit in the sort of pastel blues and pinks you might consider for a new bidet. The overall effect is *The Nine O'Clock News* meets *Sea World*.

Emerging from such a backdrop, William Hague did well to raise his audience's spirits. In what was, by the evangelical standards of the hour, an unshowy and old-fashioned speech delivered with relaxed, good humour, the new leader steadied nerves a little. He was received with something better

than acquiescence and something less than rapture. John Major spoke movingly and was greeted with the demented acclaim the Tory tribe traditionally reserves for those whom it has comprehensively shredded.

In or out of power, there is a certain continuity about Conservative conferences. Those who doubted as much will have been reassured by the sight of Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman. The Morris Minor-driving former MP for Lancaster was sitting in the position she always occupies, at the front.

Dame Elaine, who is 73,

NEWS IN BRIEF

1,300 jobs to go at migration offices

A plan to cut jobs by half at the immigration service offices at Lunar House, Croydon, triggered threats of industrial action. Staff were told that a new computerised system would save £12 million a year and cut jobs from 2,500 to 1,200. Voluntary redundancies are being sought throughout the Home Office.

Trades unions said that they would take action unless Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, halts the plan for the largest ever cull of staff at the Home Office, involving 800 redundancies next year and the rest within two years. Any dispute could extend to frontline staff at airports, ferry ports and the Channel Tunnel. There is a 90-day deadline for consultation.

Donor scare

People suspected to have the human form of "mad cow" disease are being asked to dispose of their organ donor cards. The UK Transplant Support Service Authority said the risk of donors passing on CJD or the new variant linked with eating infected beef could not be ruled out.

Parliament plan

Plans for an environmentally friendly Scottish parliament building on an empty site at Leith waterfront have been unveiled. Forth Ports' scheme for the site also includes a retail and leisure park and three terminals. Two other sites in the assembly in central Edinburgh are in contention.

Sailors jailed

Eight sailors from the destroyer HMS Southampton were jailed for subjecting two recruits to a degrading initiation ceremony. The eight mechanics had forced the two 20-year-olds to undergo a series of disgusting acts when they joined for their first sea posting.

Extradition delay

The extradition of Pearce McCauley, 32, wanted in Britain for conspiracy to murder and cause explosions, was deferred to allow the Irish courts to charge him with firearms offences. He is accused of the unlawful possession of firearms and was remanded in custody until November 11.

Lookalike home

A woman said to resemble Marilyn Monroe, who sparked a police hunt when she went missing from her home in Gosport, Hampshire, has returned to her family. JoAnne Watts, 35, a mother of two, said the pressures of business had driven her to spend three days in London.

Minister resigns as Irish peace talks open

By Martin Fletcher and Audrey Magee

THE first full-scale peace negotiations involving Unionists, nationalists, loyalists and republicans opened at Stormont yesterday, but the historic occasion was overshadowed by the resignation of Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, and diminished by the absence of the Ulster Unionist Party's leaders.

Mr Burke's departure, amid allegations of political corruption, caused more regret than alarm, though there were fears that the repercussions in Dublin could destabilise the Irish Government. David Andrews, Mr Burke's likely successor, is well-versed in the theology of the peace process and veteran civil servants are in any case the driving force in the Irish delegation.

The long-overdue departure of Tony Blair's "settlement train" was also marked by the delivery of a letter, bomb addressed to Jeffrey Donaldson, the Ulster Unionist MP for Lagan Valley. Army bomb disposal experts defused it.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the launch of the substantive negotiations after 16 months of procedural wrangling was potentially "a defining moment for Northern Ireland".

Representatives of the eight participating parties spent the day delivering opening statements long on aspirations, short on substance and — for yesterday's purposes at least — moderate in tone. Even Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness, who on Sunday had talked of "smashing" the Union, chose to cloak his

demand for a united Ireland in mild language.

The exception was the Ulster Unionist Party, whose statement emphatically rejected the notion of a united Ireland. It said the UUP was attending the talks to defend the Union and to challenge the sincerity of Sinn Féin/IRA's commitment to democratic and exclusively peaceful means. David Trimble, the UUP leader, and two of his MPs were missing as they were in Washington.

Participants variously described the talks as "tetchy", "workmanlike" and "businesslike". Sinn Féin accused the Unionists of "groaning and grunting" throughout Mr McGuinness's presentation. But Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh, dismissed Sinn Féin's presentation as "a series of clichés and platitudes".

Mr McGuinness said he hoped the Unionists would "chill out" as the talks progressed. They will resume next week.

Mr Burke yesterday blamed his departure as head of the Irish delegation on "ongoing personal attacks". He has also resigned his north Dublin seat, risking the stability of the minority government.

Mr Burke will be investigated next month by a tribunal to establish if he received £30,000 from a builder in exchange for political favours. He is also hounded by allegations that he behaved improperly in handing out 11 passports to Arabs in exchange for a £20 million investment in Ireland.



Gail Naughton with tissue on which skin is grown. "We grow cells in same way as they grow naturally," she said

'There is no reason we can't make any part of the body'

Like a script from science fiction, scientists say they have the technology to repair a heart, writes Ian Murray

GAIL NAUGHTON is a hard-headed scientist with a dream that sounds like something from a script for *The Six Million Dollar Man*.

"There is no reason why we can't make any part of the human body to the highest standard, now we have discovered the technology," she said yesterday as she launched the first of what could be an entire range of body spares.

The technique involves growing new tissue by removing body cells and tricking them into believing they are back in the womb. Healthy living cells are taken for the process where possible, but for some organs at present they need to come from donors at a post mortem examination.

There has so far been little difficulty in replicating any organ apart from kidneys. "Hearts are simple muscle and there would be no problem in making a patch to fit, just like one for a tyre," Ms Naughton said.

The first product is a skin graft that can heal foot ulcers in diabetics, who until now have often had no alternative to amputation. The skin is grown from a master cell bank at Advanced Tissue Sciences, the company Ms

Naughton runs in San Diego. The bank was set up by using discarded tissue from circumcised newborn babies. With each cell capable of creating up to 250,000 square feet of human skin, sufficient to cover six football pitches, there is enough to last for years.

The engineering process involves making a mesh of biodegradable suture material similar to that used by surgeons in operations. Healthy tissue cells are injected into this "scaffold", which is then put into an incubator that replicates conditions in the womb.

"We grow the cells out of the body in the same way as they are grown naturally during pregnancy," Ms Naughton said. "The incubator is a very controlled environment, with oxygen delivery, nutrient delivery and elimination of waste products carried out exactly as they are in the human body."

The secret is learning how to keep the cells happy, the right distance apart and on the right scaffold. You have to mimic the body's environment and then the cells grow normally.

The cells are fed a mixture of vitamins, glucose, amino acids and serum proteins, and the tissue grows at the same pace as it does in the womb. Skin takes two weeks, bone takes six weeks and liver tissue takes eight weeks. The scaffold can be in any size or shape so that blocks of bone can be produced. By computer imaging the exact shape of the bone that needs replacing can be copied and an engineered block cut to size.

The skin tissue, being marketed in Britain by Smith & Nephew, the medical suppliers, is already licensed for use in Canada and has nearly finished trials in America to satisfy the registration regulations of the Food and Drug Agency. In Britain there is no need for registration because the product is not classified as a drug or a medical appliance.

Dermagraft patches are just 200 microns thick when taken

from the growth incubator. They are then stored in a sealed bag at -70C until needed, when they are thawed in warm water. The doctor cuts the patch to fit the shape of the ulcer and holds it in place with a bandage.

The treatment is repeated each week and trials have shown that the patch encourages the patients' own skin and blood vessels to regenerate. After eight weeks most patients are cured.

Each patch costs £250 and a full eight-week treatment costs £3,492. This compares with £3,620 for current treatment, largely involving preventing the patient from walking and removing excess skin that builds up around the ulcer. Traditional treatment is very slow, with many patients incapacitated for months. Elderly patients risk gangrene and amputation. The cost of treating an ulcer which remains unhealed is £22,000 a year. An amputation costs £6,000.

Michael Edmonds, consultant physician at the diabetes department of King's College Hospital, London, said that although there had been some scepticism initially, successful clinical trials had convinced specialists that the technique was a major advance.

Anger at killer's move to Ulster

By Shirley English

A MURDERER who slashed the throat of a teenage football fan was at the centre of a political dispute last night over plans to transfer him from Scotland to the Maze prison, near Belfast, at the request of loyalists.

Papers are expected to be signed this week allowing Jason Campbell, 25, from Bridgeton, Glasgow, currently held at Shotts prison, Lanarkshire, to move to Northern Ireland.

It followed a decision by the Scottish Office to agree to the transfer which was originally approved by Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, as part of a deal with the Progressive Unionist Party before the start of peace talks.

A Scottish Office spokesman said: "Ministers are satisfied that the procedures are being followed correctly, and the transfer will take place."

The announcement provoked outrage from other political parties who earlier this week said transferring Campbell would give the murder a political dimension.

Campbell is currently serving a life sentence for the murder in October 1995 of 16-year-old Mark Scott, a Glasgow Celtic fan. The attack happened during a clash with supporters of Glasgow Rangers as Mark walked home with friends after a Celtic game.

Campbell, whose father and uncle are convicted UVF terrorists but whose family live in Glasgow, slashed the boy's throat because he was wearing a Celtic shirt and left him to die in the street.

Menzies Campbell, MP, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Scottish legal affairs last night said he had written to the chairman of the Scottish Select Committee in the House of Commons demanding a full investigation into the affair.

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Oxbridge danger

Continued from page 1

lor, denied that Oxford had the resources to preserve the college system on its own if public money were lost. "I do not believe that any rational Government would wish seriously to put at risk the intellectual achievements of the two ancient universities or to destroy their competitive position on the world scene," he said.

"But that is what is at risk — and the danger comes when those responsible for the decisions are not fully aware of the risks and their implications."

Dr North pointed out that Oxford's course costs are lower than Harvard's in the United States but that it has just a quarter of the resources and has to compete with the leading American universities for top academics and research students.

He credits the college system with Oxford's low drop-out rate and high academic achievements. "I believe that a powerful case can be made to justify the continued payment of college fees at a significant level," he said.

In his vice-chancellor's address last week, Professor Alec Broers of Cambridge fired the first salvo in what could

become a considerable battle with the Government. "In the torrent of comment which has followed the Dearing Report, there has been a somewhat disconcerting undertone that the special standing of Cambridge and Oxford is somehow unfair... I cannot suppose such a contention... Cambridge continues to earn its place of parity with the world's institutions."

Any loss of funding will degrade this performance," he said.

Oxford and Cambridge easily topped *The Times* league table of British universities this summer, with Cambridge earning top grades for its teaching and research quality and Oxford leading the field in graduate employment and library spending for each student.

While the overwhelming majority of John Major's Cabinet was educated at Oxford or Cambridge, Oxbridge has fewer ties with Tony Blair's senior colleagues. Just three of the present Labour Cabinet went to Oxford or Cambridge. But Oxbridge graduates make up more than a quarter of MPs in the House of Commons, with 108 being from Oxford and 69 from Cambridge.

Doctors set out charges option

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

DOCTORS today tell the Government how to raise up to £10 billion a year for the National Health Service by charging patients, but give warning that the move would prove counterproductive.

The NHS budget for next year is £46.2 billion, but the British Medical Association says that the service needs £5 billion more in the next four years to meet overheads and to modernise itself. Charging is one way to raise the money, the BMA suggests, but that would be unfair and damaging to health, it says. Only if taxes are increased to fund the service will it be possible to provide good-quality health care for all, the BMA says.

The paper says that "hotel charges" of £30 a night for hospital beds would raise £2.5 billion; £10 for a consultation with a general practitioner would bring in £3.3 billion; increasing prescription charges to £10 for all would generate £4 billion; and £10 charges for day home visits by GPs would bring in a further

£265 million, and £14.5 million for night visits.

Although the reduction in demand brought by charges could reduce waste, the BMA paper says, it could also deter patients from seeking important help at an early stage, so that "costlier and more intensive care may need to be provided in the future when a simple condition develops into something more serious."

This has wider implications for public health. Open access to health has aided the control of various diseases within the population and limiting that access may be counterproductive.

The paper also says that if patients are required to pay they are likely to demand a better service for their money.

The paper says that encouraging more people to join private health schemes would create resentment among those who joined about paying taxes to meet the needs of those who did not. "Accessing health care will be based on ability to pay and not on clinical need."

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Vanny baby sh as little

Hollywood

Nanny 'killed' baby she saw as little brat

FROM PETER BEAL IN BOSTON

A BRITISH teenager murdered a baby in a fit of rage while unhappy with her life as a nanny, a jury was told yesterday, Louise Woodward, 19, went to work in America during a year's break before university, but was said to have felt that she was underpaid and regarded the two children in her care as "fussy, cranky, crying little brats".



Susan and Gary Woodward, the nanny's parents

Elton, near Chester, had been warned about staying out too late and failing to get up in the mornings, just five days before nine-month-old Matthew Eappen died of head injuries.

The prosecution said that she shook him and slammed him in a "frustrated, unhappy and resentful rage" when he kept crying. His doctor's parents were both out at work. The teenager, who has spent eight months behind bars awaiting trial, denies a charge of first-degree murder, which carries a sentence of life imprisonment without parole. Her father, Gary, sat behind her in the public gallery of the court at Cambridge, Massachusetts, at the opening of the trial, which is expected to take three weeks. Defence lawyers said they

would be calling some of the world's leading medical experts to show that the baby's death had been caused by a skull injury which had gone unnoticed for several days. They said that Miss Woodward was not unhappy with her job, had cared for the children, and volunteered to help at a nursery on her Sundays off.

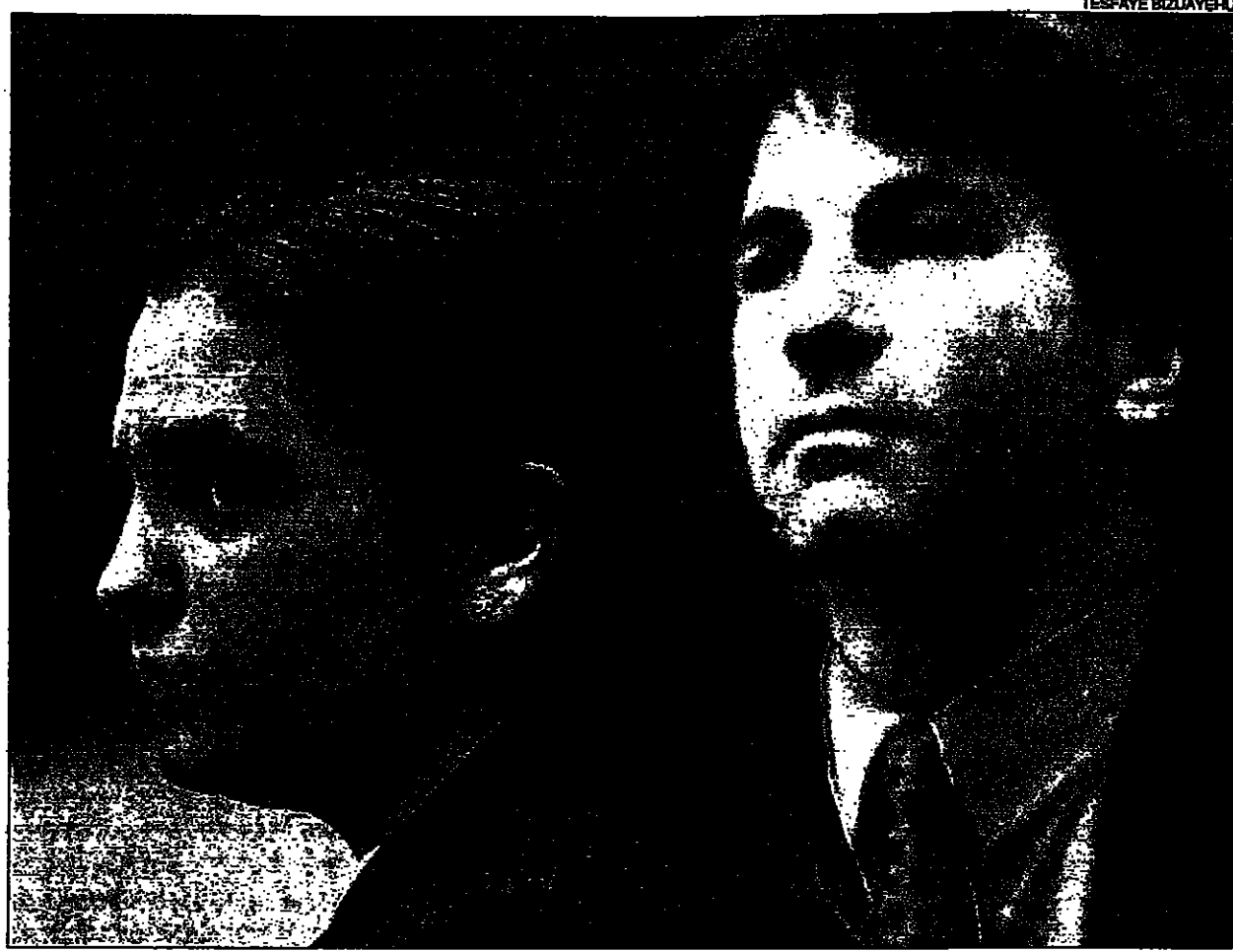
Opening the prosecution, Gerry Leone, the deputy first assistant district attorney, said: "This case is about Matthew Eappen being violently slammed against a hard object and severely shaken, causing massive injuries. This violent shaking and this severe slamming being done by the defendant Louise Woodward in a frustrated, unhappy, resentful rage based on her attitude to her job and a crying Matthew Eappen. The best evidence to what happened to Matthew Eappen that day is Matthew Eappen's bruised, broken and battered body."

Matthew's mother, Deborah, left him at home with Miss Woodward on the morning of February 4. "It was the last time Deborah Eappen would see her little boy normal, healthy and well again. Later that day, after an emergency call, he was taken to hospital suffering from a 2½ in skull fracture, a massively swollen brain and retinal haemorrhaging behind the eyes."

Mr Leone said that as doctors fought to save the child's life, Miss Woodward was telling police that she had been unhappy and frustrated with him crying all day. She said she had been "a little rough" with him, had tossed him on the bed and dropped him in the bathroom, possibly hitting his head where the bath met the wall tiles. The nanny later shook him to revive him because he seemed unresponsive to her.

But Mr Leone said: "These injuries were not caused by her being a little rough, tossing him on the bed or dropping him on the floor. They were not caused by a gentle revival shaking. These injuries were caused by a violent slam against a hard object, causing the skull fracture which eventually killed him five days later."

Five days earlier, the nanny had received an ultimatum from the baby's parents over staying out late at night and her inability to get up to look after Matthew and his two-year-old brother Brendan. Mr Leone alleged that Miss Woodward, who had started to lead a busy social life with friends in Boston, resented the



Louise Woodward in court with a member of her defence team. She has spent eight months awaiting trial

Help, he's not focusing. He is making gurgling noises. Help, what can I do?

fact that she was paid the same as au pairs who looked after one child, and was heard saying to a friend in a theatre queue that she thought the two children were "fussy, cranky, crying little brats". But Andrew Good, defending, said

biomechanics and forensic pathology. You will hear from people with enormous knowledge and experience who will tell you that this child unfortunately suffered an injury earlier that caused this fracture. "You will hear it might well have been an accident done with far less force and it caused a leak in a blood vessel into his skull." He said there was evidence of an earlier wrist fracture which had gone unnoticed by both the baby's parents.

He said that there were notes made by Mrs Eappen that the baby had not been "healthy and fine" in the days leading up to his death. Miss Woodward had told the mother that the day before, the baby had been crying, lethargic, hard to arouse and lost his appetite. On the day he was taken to hospital, she had had to wake him up, he would not take his breakfast and then had an unusually long nap. His condition deteriorated rapidly and Miss Woodward had realised "something was terribly wrong".

Drunken passenger accused of kicking PC in groin

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A POLICEMAN who arrested a drunken woman passenger on a British Airways flight from Montreal was kicked so hard in the groin that he needed two operations, a court was told yesterday.

The alleged assault at Heathrow followed an incident in which Carmel Beer, 50, had thrown wine over a steward and pulled off his clipboard.

Ms Beer became abusive after she was refused more alcohol on the Boeing 747 and the captain radioed before landing to request assistance. PC Christopher Williams told Isleworth Crown Court in West London that his left testicle was still bruised after Ms Beer caught him with her heel after the aircraft landed on February 9.

As he and colleagues approached her at the back of the aircraft, she became abusive and began lashing out from her seat with her arms and legs, saying that she supposed the officers planned to "nick" her, Mr Williams said.

Ms Beer, from Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Somerset, denies one charge of assault causing actual bodily harm. The jury was told that she had already admitted being drunk on an aircraft and common assault, and that she had been returning to Britain after a failed attempt at reconciliation with her husband.

Mr Williams, whose injuries have prevented him from returning to duty, said: "It was a hard blow; it connected with the inside of my leg and I think it was the heel of her boot caught me in the left testicle."

He had immediately told Ms Beer that she was under arrest but she had continued to struggle until she was pulled from her seat and taken to a police van.

Andrew Campbell-Tiech, for the defence, said the police response had been heavy-handed.

The case continues.



Beer: denies charge of assault at Heathrow

Hollywood fights for Princess tapes

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A HOLLYWOOD producer announced yesterday that he has the rights to taped interviews by Diana, Princess of Wales, to make a film about her marriage break-up. Earl Spencer was said last night to be "appalled" at the reported deal over transcripts of tapes that the Princess gave secretly to Andrew Morton for his book, *Diana: Her True Story*. The Princess's brother was said to be particularly upset that an actress would be allowed to use her words. It is understood that he will instruct lawyers to examine if he can stop the film from using transcripts of the tapes made when the Princess collaborated over the original book in 1991.

But last night its publisher, Michael O'Mara, denied that the rights had been secured by the Hollywood producer, Martin Poll. Mr Poll's company made the 1993 four-hour television mini-series based on the original version of the book. The publisher called the deal "very misleading". A spokeswoman for Mr O'Mara said that the deal was not new. It was the one which allowed Mr Poll to make the 1993 series. "So far as we are concerned, he is not allowed to use the material in the foreword of the new book based on the transcripts of Diana's tape recordings," she said. The publisher says the existing deal means the film company could not use quotations from the Princess that are included in the 18,000 words taken

from her taped interviews which appear in the revised edition, *Diana: Her True Story - In Her Own Words*. Mr Poll denied his film was "cashing in" on the Princess's memory. A spokesman said: "It has become obvious that other films will be made about the Princess. Martin Poll felt he would be able to make a film which reflects her own views and her own perceptions."

He said the initial announcement had been based on a misunderstanding and was not intended to imply that a new deal had been signed relating to the latest book. The 1992 agreement did allow the company to use the final chapters of the new book, updating the Princess's story to her death, though it gave no rights to use any of the tapes or transcripts, he said. A German film producer, Christian Seidel, is involved in the deal. The two producers said that they intend to "use a cast of distinguished British actors for the new film and will conduct a search throughout the United Kingdom for the actress to play Diana."

Murder case nurses face new demand

By DANIEL MCGRODY

THE brother of Yvonne Gilford, the murdered Australian nurse, is demanding that the British nurses accused of killing her in Saudi Arabia drop plans to sue his lawyers for \$200 million (£125 million) for "mental cruelty". Frank Gilford says that otherwise he will not agree to waive his demand for the death penalty. The ultimatum comes days before a court is to decide the fate of Deborah Parry, on a charge of murder. Lucille McLauchlan, 31, has been

convicted as an accessory and sentenced to eight years in jail and 500 lashes. The nurses issued writs from their prison cell in July suing Mr Gilford's American lawyers for "their ill-motivated and evil scheme to make our ordeal worse than it would otherwise have been". Salah al-Hejailan, the Saudi lawyer leading the defence case, has said that he believes Mr Gilford is risking \$12 million blood money to protect his lawyers. "The Saudi courts will take a dim view of his behaviour."

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Arts Council is cleared of 'cosy fixes' with opera

A REPORT into the relationship between the Arts Council and the Royal Opera House has cleared the two bodies of "cosy fixing" or of an "inappropriate closeness", according to a summary released by the Arts Council yesterday.

However, the report by the solicitor Edward Walker-Arnott points to unsatisfactory procedures in the past management of the opera house, and makes proposals about "transparency, openness and clarity" in the future relationship between the Arts Council and the recipient of its biggest subsidy.

The report was commissioned in response to unease after the sudden transfer of Mary Allen from Secretary-General of the Arts Council to chief executive of the Opera House.

Mr Walker-Arnott recognises that when Genista McIntosh decided to leave, the ROH believed — with good grounds — that it had a very serious crisis on its hands, the summary says. Ms Allen was appointed without a selection procedure, and "Lord Gowrie [the Arts Council chairman], taking individual responsibility, knew of the ROH Board's decision".

The summary claims that "there was great pressure to avoid a leak," and that this meant that there was no time to involve Arts Council members in any decision-making

Report rejects claims of too close relationship with Covent Garden, writes Richard Morrison

process. The summary says that "it is always easy with the benefit of hindsight to assert that matters could have been conducted more slowly and deliberately." It concludes: "Mr Walker-Arnott appreciates that the circumstances of Mary Allen's appointment might suggest to an uninformed observer an unusual — and inappropriate — closeness between the Arts Council of England and the ROH. He is, however, satisfied that the suspicion would be quite unfounded."

On the general question of "cosiness", the summary recognises that "there have been contacts between people at the top of ROH and the top of the Arts Council who move in the same circles" and that "this can lead to the appearance of confidential arrangements of matters in informal situations". However, Mr Walker-Arnott explains the whole funding system of the arts.

member "permitting cosy fixing between individuals".

The summary is more critical of the Opera House's management. On the allegation that ROH board members and important fund-raisers are interfering in the day-to-day running of the opera house, the summary says: "For an individual non-executive director to by-pass the chief executive or another senior executive to exert pressure on some junior in the hierarchy is to detract seriously from good governance."

And on the opera house's closure plans during Covent Garden's redevelopment, described last year by Lord Gowrie as "a shambles", the summary notes that "the new chairman, new chief executive and new finance director of the ROH have recognised that procedures prior to their arrival had been less than satisfactory."

The decision to issue only a nine-page summary prompted calls for the full report to be published. Rodney Milnes, *The Times* opera critic, said: "It is supremely uninformative. What have they got to hide?"

Lord Gowrie said: "It would be very difficult for any disinterested reader to make an enormous amount of sense of the report, because you would need a covering document explaining the whole funding system of the arts."



The warrior and his horse lie uncovered after 1,500 years, beside the project officer, Jo Caruth. She said the style of burial was extremely rare

How secrets of Saxon horsepower rose from the grave into the jet age

By LIN JENKINS

OVERHEAD, warriors of the 20th century roared across the sky in their F15 fighters. Below, an archaeologist painstakingly removed the final traces of soil from a Saxon warrior and warhorse who journeyed across the landscape 1,500 years ago.

Jonathan Van Jenkins measured bones and took photographs from every angle yesterday, to ensure that he had recorded every last detail of the rare find before the 6th-century skeletons are removed tomorrow to make way for a new dormitory on the US air base at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk.

"I have mixed emotions about moving them," he said. "But better I do it than the builders' JCB."

A pagan burial ground with more than 200 graves has been found in the middle of the air base, opposite its sports ground. The discovery of the horse and man has been heralded as holding

fresh clues to the Saxon way of life, on a par with the discoveries unearthed at the Sutton Hoo burial site in 1991. The man is not far short of 6ft tall. His full set of teeth is faded to the same sandy colour as his bones. Clearly visible are the traces of his wooden shield with its metal handle, and his sword. Alongside him in his coffin were the bones of a sheep, placed as an offering or to provide sustenance in the next life.

Next to the coffin lay the horse, killed to accompany its owner and make plain his status as an aristocrat and warrior. The legs and neck were bent to fit into the plot. A wooden bucket, probably full of food, was buried by the horse's head.

USAF veterinary surgeons believe the horse could have been as big as 16 hands high. The skull has a marked depression between the eyes, where a blow can easily kill a horse. One of the rarest finds



An artist's impression of a Saxon warrior

has been a decorative harness which will tell for the first time whether the animals were ridden or driven.

Archaeologists from the British Museum plan to remove the horse's head with a large amount of the surrounding soil, and excavate it in laboratory conditions. Jo Caruth, project officer for

Suffolk County Council's archaeological services, said: "It is a terribly exciting find. This is a style of burial similar to that seen in Scandinavia, but it is very rare in this country."

The man was probably not royalty, but was wealthy and important. "He would have been the equivalent of an aristocrat. They killed his horse because he needs it for the next life, and so they know how important he is when he gets there. Only a few people had horses. They were valuable animals. The family is showing that it not only owns them, but that it can afford to kill one."

Close examination and scientific testing of samples may reveal what was left in the bucket for the horse, and what parasites man and beast suffered from. The grave will not be reconstructed; the bones will be stored for research, and photographs of the dig will form part of a museum display. Miss Caruth described the find as "astonishing" in that

the skeletons were in good condition because they were in chalk below a sandy soil. The site had been left undisturbed for a long time, and security at the air base meant there has been no trouble from amateur archaeologists.

The first indication of something unusual was the unearthing of a ring ditch around a burial mound. Another of the graves on the site contained a man buried with a sword, indicating his high rank since they were difficult to make. Other graves have revealed brooches, beads and tools. Miss Caruth said: "We don't know to what extent they actually fought. Most of it is probably ceremonial."

There is another Saxon cemetery here under the hospital which was excavated in the 1950s. This is very close to that and we assumed it would be very ordinary."

The dig, funded by the Ministry of Defence, is due to finish at the end of the month when building work begins.

Apology ends academy row

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE exhibitions secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts was yesterday forced to make a public apology to the organisation's council for derogatory comments he made about an academician in a television documentary.

Norman Rosenthal had outraged academicians by the dismissive remarks he made about John Ward, after the artist called for his resignation over the staging of an exhibition featuring a controversial

portrait of Myra Hindley. Last month, Mr Rosenthal wrote a letter of apology to Mr Ward which was circulated among 80 academicians. Many of them had attacked the institution for staging *Sensation*, which features dismembered limbs and animal carcasses. Three members resigned.

Mr Rosenthal yesterday reiterated the sentiments of his letter, saying that he had not intended to upset the artist: "If I did, I unreservedly apolo-

gise." The 15-strong committee gave him a unanimous vote of confidence. The academy said that the matter was "now closed".

Mr Ward had said of the decision to show the portrait of Myra Hindley, made by Marcus Harvey with children's fingerprints: "It is not a work of art at all. It's incredibly boring, cashing in on an inflated bit of tragedy."

Letters, page 19

Why did Tetbury cross the road? To stop the lorries

Town's antique army takes to the streets to stop traffic breaching the peace, reports Simon de Bruxelles

THE citizens of the Cotswold town of Tetbury have never been known for their militancy. There were no riots against the poll tax, or anything else for that matter. It has never been declared a nuclear-free zone and a roving eco-warrior would find a cool welcome in the town's two dozen antique shops.

But now residents have broken with tradition and are threatening a campaign of civil disobedience that would hearten younger anti-roads protesters. Led by the Mayor, Brian Kimber, an army of pensioners, antique dealers and stout burghers are preparing for battle after losing a long-running campaign to ban lorries from the historic town. Starting next week they intend to block the main road through the town by walking in single file backwards and forwards across Tetbury's pedestrian crossing.

By keeping on the move they claim they will not be breaking the law, just holding up the hundreds of lorries that every day rattle the panes in their leaded windows.

Mr Kimber said: "We feel very strongly that we have been betrayed by the county council. We are now planning measures which will all be within the law but which will be designed to make drivers realise that it is wise to avoid Tetbury. Too many lorries have been using the town centre as a short cut and if we

can hold them up and make life difficult for them they will soon be deterred."

In his office in the 17th-century market hall, Rodger Williams, administrator of the town council, has counted between 400 and 600 lorries rumbling past in a day. He said: "It is totally inappropriate for what should be a quiet Cotswold town. Sometimes it's more like a motorway. After years of complaints the highways authority set aside £65,000 to provide diversions and stop lorries using the town as a short cut. Then last

week they announced that owing to objections from hauliers they were going to spend the money on something else."

Inside the Grade I listed Tudor wool-merchants' house that serves as an antique shop, Mervyn Woodburn grits his teeth every time a lorry rumbles by. Vibrations resonate through the building which has changed little since it was built in 1590, and the stock of expensive antiques is dusted with a layer of Elizabethan plaster.

Mr Woodburn, a former civil servant, said: "If we stop

the lorries coming through perhaps they will think twice and take another route. It isn't as though there isn't one."

For Peter Bristow, another antiques dealer, what hurts is that many of the lorries are carrying stone for the Gloucester bypass which won approval at the same time Tetbury's was scrapped. "Tetbury is visited by thousands of tourists each year, many of them hoping for a glimpse of the Prince of Wales or his sons on outings from their home, Highgrove, a mile away. Several shops in the town bear the royal warrant."

Tetbury was founded at least as early as AD681 and during the Middle Ages rose to prosperity with the wool trade. Tourism and antiques are the principal earners today.

Gloucestershire police say they will be keeping a close eye on the protesters. A spokesman said: "It is an offence to loiter on a pedestrian crossing but it is not an offence to use a pedestrian crossing properly."

Gloucester County Council denies it has scrapped plans to divert lorries away from Tetbury but it is reviewing them and has reallocated the funding in the meantime.

Derek Howell, Cotswolds area traffic manager, said that there was concern that lorries would be diverted through other communities. "This is not an easy problem to solve but we will now hold discussions on other solutions."



Unwelcome visitor: a lorry passes through Tetbury

Murdoch warns against privacy law

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RUPERT MURDOCH urged the media to resist demands for a privacy law yesterday in the wake of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. He said that such laws were for the protection of the privileged, not the ordinary man and woman in the street.

Mr Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, said that newspapers would operate under a stronger and more effective code of ethics with the tough proposals recently made by Lord Wakeham, chairman of the

Press Complaints Commission, and welcomed by newspaper editors: "I think you will see a great deal more restraint by all the newspapers in Britain and I think you'll see a stronger and better-policed code of ethics."


Mr Murdoch was speaking after the annual general meeting of News Corp's global media group in Adelaide, Australia. News Corp is also the parent company of Britain's leading tabloid newspapers, *The Sun* and *News of the World*.

He said: "Privacy laws are for the protection of the people who are already privileged, they are not for the ordinary man and woman. The talk of privacy

laws is to see if we can get a new privilege for the already privileged and that should be resisted by all journalists and all people involved in publishing and television the world over."

Mr Murdoch said that there had been instances of hypocrisy following the Paris car crash which killed the Princess: "For instance, the first person to say that they don't buy pictures from the paparazzi was the *Daily Mail* and they had been buying in association with us, from the paparazzi within 24 hours of that statement."

Media, pages 22-23
Business, page 27



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Princess's on compu backed by

Cambridge gets windows of opportunity

Rise firm seek share market

Princess's attack on computers is backed by Gates

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

THE Princess Royal found an unlikely ally yesterday when she warned schools against allowing computers to dominate education. Bill Gates, billionaire head of the world's largest computer software company, agreed.

The Princess told heads of independent schools that children needed to learn social skills just as much as computer skills.

Mr Gates, the founder and chief executive of Microsoft, had earlier endorsed Tony Blair's plans to link Britain's 32,000 schools to the Internet by 2002. However, he added: "Nobody is suggesting that technology is a substitute for the teacher."

Speaking at St John's College, Cambridge, he said he agreed with the Princess. "Technology is just a tool and this will be a tool in the hands of teachers. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is most important."

The Princess, speaking at the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference in Brighton, said the rise of information technology presented a new challenge to the teaching profession. Children needed more help than many recognised to turn on-screen information into knowledge. "Information isn't every-

thing. It is the use of that information that becomes knowledge. Just having access to information isn't the same thing. That is a real challenge to those who educate."

She said children also needed to be taught social skills. "If there are youngsters who are very competent with computers, they can learn everything that they need to know from these machines. But how do they learn to interact with other people?"

After his meeting with Mr Blair, Mr Gates said that he was "delighted" to have Microsoft involved in helping to shape some of the fundamental strategic thinking behind making technology an integral part of every aspect of British life. He said he fully endorsed the plan "to improve the learning experience for all British students."

Mr Gates did not offer any financial backing for the project. However, Mr Blair said that his support would give a tremendous boost to the scheme, which will provide £100 million of public money.

Speaking after a "fascinating" meeting, the Prime Minister said: "Getting the support and expertise of Bill Gates in this enterprise provides a real boost to our drive to make sure British children get the very best in their

schools." Mr Blair later travelled to Holland Park comprehensive school in West London to launch the scheme. The school was carefully chosen by Downing Street because it provides a powerful illustration of the importance of the initiative. The school's 150 computers, which have to be shared by nearly 1,500 pupils, are old and will soon be obsolete.

The government scheme will provide new equipment linked to a massive website, known as the National Grid for Learning, which will provide a network of material to help students studying information technology. It will also help with numeracy and literacy. National Lottery money will be spent on training 500,000 teachers in information technology.

Leading article, page 19



Happy to be here: Jonida Gjodete, left, and Paulina Wojtowska at Pembroke College, Oxford, yesterday

Students who lost hope start at Oxford

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

TWO students too poor to study at Oxford took up places yesterday after their academic careers were saved by an appeal in *The Times*. Up to £15,000 a year has been guaranteed by individual donors and trusts for Paulina Wojtowska, from Poland, and Jonida Gjodete, Oxford's only Albanian undergraduate.

The 18-year-olds expected to have to share accommodation but were delighted to find that they have their own rooms in Pembroke College. Miss Wojtowska, who gained five A-grade A levels on a scholarship at Millfield, travelled from her home near the Polish border with Russia by bus. "It is just fantastic to be here," she said. "I could not believe it was happening until the last minute."

Miss Gjodete, from Vlora, who gained an international Baccalaureate at a college in Norway on a scholarship, said that she had given up hope of a place at Oxford.

Cambridge gets windows of opportunity

By Philip Delves Broughton

NEW money met ancient academia yesterday when Bill Gates, the world's richest man, went to Cambridge. The admiration was mutual.

For Gates, the founder and chief executive of Microsoft, everything was "amazing". The brains at Cambridge were amazing. The university was amazing. The opportunities were amazing.

That Tony Blair, whom he had met in the morning, knew that the Internet was amazing. Professor Stephen Hawking, whose friendship with Gates's chief technology officer, Nathan Myrland, helped to inspire the donation to Cambridge, was "an amazing, great guy".

For Cambridge, Gates—or at least his generosity—was amazing too. This year, he has given \$20 million (£12.5 million) of his own charity's money to the university and has pledged a £15 billion investment in a Microsoft computer research centre at the university. For a man

who wakes up each morning \$20 million richer than when he went to bed, the money is loose change. For Cambridge, however, this is big news.

The title of the computer age landed by helicopter in a field near St John's College. Bill—everyone calls him Bill—wore a leaf-green suit and a red tie covered in what looked like grey slugs. His trademark lick of greasy hair over his brow had been trimmed into a designer ragged fringe.

He was introduced and thanked by the university Vice-Chancellor, Alec Broers, an engineer by training. Professor Broers was working at IBM in the late seventies when the company bought an operating system for their PCs from a floppy-haired kid called Gates who had dropped out of Harvard after a year.

For his lecture to computer students, Gates changed into a blue sweatshirt with Cambridge written across it in white letters. Gone was the corporate swell and in his came the computer nerd.

He launched into the world of high computer science, well beyond those who find Windows a struggle. At the end of his talk, Gates was presented with a glass brick inscribed with the first computer program, called "a bootstrap loader". It was presented by David Wheeler, the Cambridge professor who wrote it in the late 1940s.

The program was short and simple. "Just the kind of program I like," said Gates, who, for all his billions, looks like an excited student just awarded a prize.



Gates: given the first computer program

Rival firms seek slice of market

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A BATTLE for control of the educational computing market looks likely after Bill Gates's meeting with the Prime Minister yesterday at which he backed the Government's plans to link all schools to the Internet.

Despite the popularity in homes and businesses of Windows, the operating system which Mr Gates's company Microsoft makes, machines such as the British-made Acorn microcomputer that operate on different systems still hold sway in British schools. The Government's plan to upgrade school computers and link them to the Internet should give Mr Gates's an opening to get more personal computers into schools that use the Microsoft system. Microsoft is co-operating

with BT, who want to cable the schools, and Research Machines, a British-based PC-maker. Mr Gates's company will also have the chance to sell their Internet Explorer software, which searches the Internet for information.

Computer firms are also keen to back the Government's £100 million scheme because they believe it will lead to a big growth in the market for PCs and software in homes and businesses as well as schools.

Not everyone is happy. Charles Crook, an expert in computers and education at Loughborough University, said that Mr Gates and his company would probably make plenty of money from the Government's plan, but that children were unlikely to become better educated.

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MAKE IT BURN

Mellor claims a goal for fans going to Italy

By Richard Duce

DAVID MELLOR, embracing his new role as champion of the "decent" football fan, won assurances from Italy yesterday that policing of the England's World Cup qualifying match in Rome will not be oppressive.

Mr Mellor, head of the Government's football task force, had 45 minutes of talks with Paolo Galli, the Italian Ambassador, to express his concern that thousands of ordinary England fans will not be treated like hooligans. The meeting came less than 24 hours after British police said up to 700 known trouble-makers were heading for Rome without tickets for Saturday's match.

Mr Mellor said afterwards that helpful assurances had been given about how the Italians will cope with an influx of 10,000 England supporters: "The chief of police in

Sport 45

Rome has assured the Ambassador that the civil rights of visiting supporters will be respected, and oppressive policing will not be a feature."

Mr Mellor's delegation included representatives of football supporters groups. He said: "We've made the point that we have no sympathy with hooligans causing trouble, and they should be dealt with as the law permits. We are here to argue in favour of decent people, who have been vetted by the Football Association, or are going out on executive packages."

His main concern has centred on plans for fans to be searched up to three times before entering the Olympic Stadium in Rome, and having items such as coins and cigarette lighters confiscated in case they could be used as missiles. The Ambassador had assured him that "nothing will be done to the English fans that will not also be done to Italian fans. There will be consistency of treatment between the two nationalities."

Newspaper pays Freud damages

THE artist Lucian Freud and his daughter, Rose Boyt, yesterday received "substantial" libel damages from *The Daily Telegraph* for alleging that she was the mother of five children by him.

The "distressing" article by Daniel Farnon appeared in the arts and books section last year under the heading "Charming Prince of Darkness", their solicitor Peter Carter-Rock told the High Court. "It included the statement that Lucian Freud publicly acknowledges five children by Rose Boyt."

Mr Farnon, the Editor, Charles Moore, and the publisher "now readily acknowledge Rose Boyt is Lucian Freud's daughter and has no children by her father". They deeply regretted "this grave and distressing error" and withdrew "unreservedly any suggestion of impropriety between Lucian Freud and his daughter."

The Daily Telegraph agreed to pay undisclosed damages and legal costs.

Muted cheers greet Prince's restoration

Neighbours worry about commotion as plans to revive former royal residence are revealed, writes Joanna Bale



Prince Edward: plans for renovation



Duke of Connaught: home built for him

IT is one thing to have a prince for a neighbour, but quite another to put up with the media circus that comes with him. So it was entirely understandable that the citizens of Bagshot were yesterday giving only two cheers for Prince Edward's plan to move in next door, with or without his girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones. Belinda Harvey, who runs the pet shop in the Surrey commuter town, said: "I suppose his presence will add to the prestige of the area, but it could also annoy some people because of all the media attention that he will attract, especially with all this speculation that he is about to announce his engagement."

The Prince intends to restore the Grade II listed former royal residence, Bagshot Park, as his new home, but as plans were made available at council offices for public view there were concerns that he might not get planning permission for the changes he wants to make.

Scott Seaton, landlord of the King's Arms pub, predicted that the Prince could face opposition from residents to his scheme, which includes demolishing one of the wings of the 120-year-old house. He said: "People here are really petty and they like to complain about everything. I tried to change the pub sign and there were lots of objections to it."

Vera Daglish, 77, whose great-grandfather worked on the royal estate, was one of those concerned about preserving the house. She said: "He's welcome to move in but he shouldn't be allowed to mess around with it."

Mary Bennett, assistant curator at Surrey Heath Museum in Camberley, hastily arranged an exhibition of historical photographs of Bagshot Park, which is also intended to be the base for the Prince's film production company, Ardent. She said: "There is already lots of media interest and we have been inundated with calls, but I think most people will be pleased that the Prince will be using it as a home, which is what it was originally built for."

The house was built by Queen Victoria in 1875 for her third son, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught prior to his marriage to Princess Louise-Margaret. Prince Edward,

also a third son, has stressed that his plans are not connected with any development in his relationship with Miss Rhys-Jones, his girlfriend of four years.

The main house and stables were occupied under a lease from the Crown by the Royal Army Chaplains' Department since the war, but it is now unoccupied. If planning permission is granted, the Prince will take a 50-year lease on the property from the Crown Estate.

The cost of the year-long refurbishment, which includes adding en-suite bathrooms, but nothing as extravagant as a swimming pool, will not be from the public purse. The Prince, who

lives at a Buckingham Palace apartment where Miss Rhys-Jones is a frequent overnight visitor, said he was attracted to the property because of its convenient location just outside the M25, within easy reach of Windsor and London. It was also "incredibly private", set in 50 acres adjoining Crown Estate farmland and forest.

He has commissioned the architect Stephen Batchelor of the London practice Bowyer Langlands Batchelor to carry out the work, which will also include accommodation for three staff. Once described as a "textbook example of a Victorian country house", the brick and stone mock Tudor building was criticised as "scarily ugly" and "like a Bournemouth hotel" by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in his 1962 book *The Buildings of England*. It was considered as a possible home for the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, after her marriage in 1947.

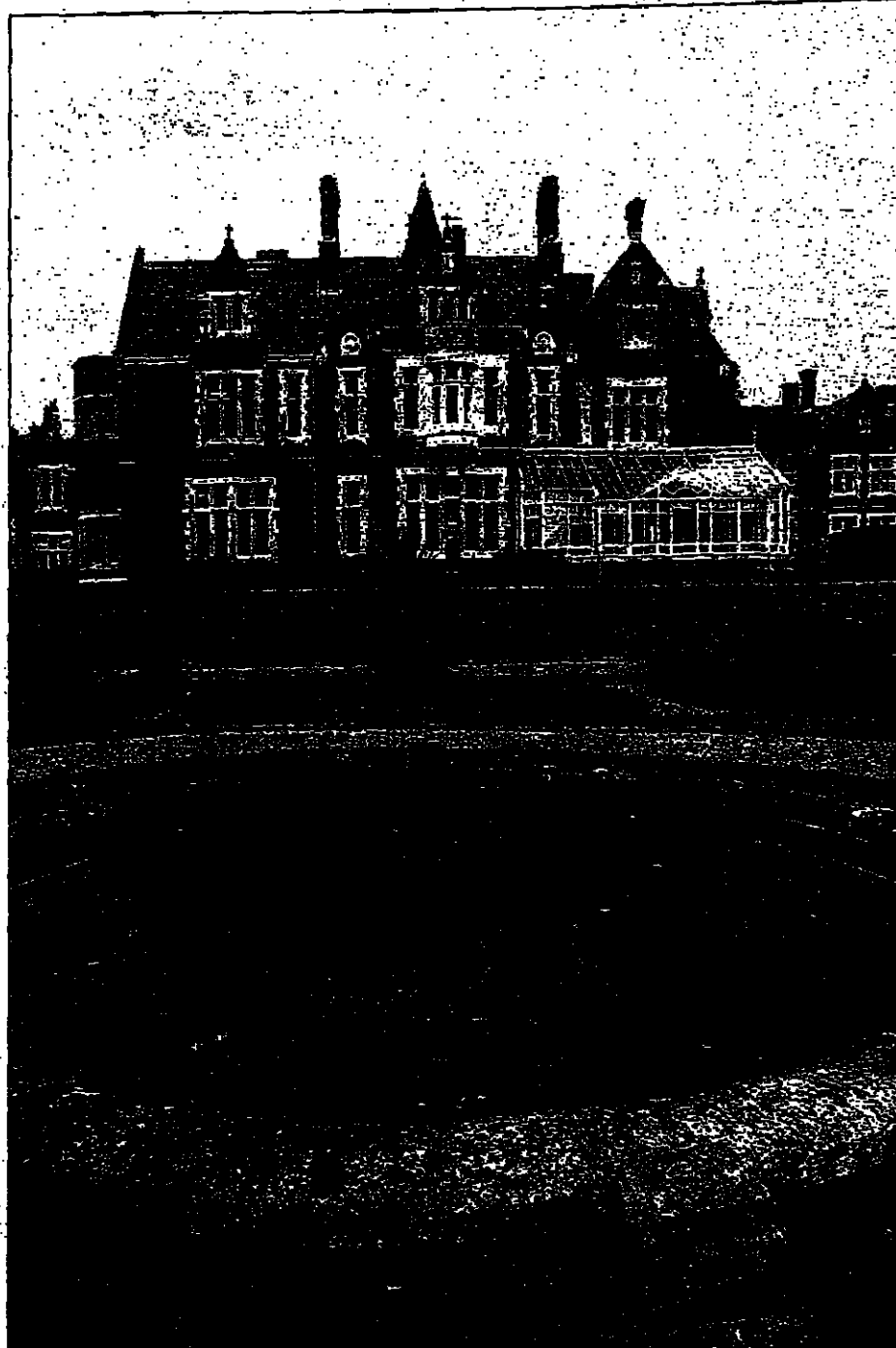
One of the rooms which will be preserved is the Indian Room, with its walls covered by carvings, and originally embellished with gems, which was a wedding gift to the Duke of Connaught from the princes of India.

John Sylvester, director of planning at Surrey Heath council, said: "We do not anticipate any major objections to the plans, despite its listed status, because the Prince has already had favourable reaction from English Heritage and the Victorian Society. However we don't know until we consult residents and other groups what the reaction will be."

Alastair Brissenden, manager of The Cricketers pub next to the house's main entrance, will be one of those consulted. He said: "I can't imagine him and Sophie popping in for drinks and a chat every Sunday, but I won't be making any objections to their plans."

Built of red Victorian brick, Bagshot Park is a mile less distinguished than some other private royal residences (Alan Hamilton writes). Both the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal enjoy understated 18th century architectural style in their Gloucestershire homes.

Highgrove, near Tetbury, was built in 1796 in a plain but



Bagshot Park: described as "textbook country house" and "scarily ugly"

pleasing style: the house has four reception rooms, nine main bedrooms, a nursery wing and staff quarters. Along with its gardens designed by the Prince, Highgrove is surrounded by its 900-acre home farm, run by the Prince on strict organic principles.

The Princess Royal was given Gatcombe Park by the Queen, who bought it in 1976, soon after her daughter's marriage to Captain Mark Phillips. Built in mellow Bath stone in the 1770s, Gatcombe has four reception rooms, five main and four secondary bedrooms, a library, billiard room, conservatory and staff wing. The Gatcombe estate extends to 730 acres, including woodland and a trout lake.



Indian Room: richly carved panels a gift of empire

Whatever Prince Edward plans for Bagshot Park, it is unlikely he could stir up anything like the architectural bile aimed at Sunninghill Park, built in 1990 near Ascot for the Duke and Duchess of York at a cost of £3.5 million. It has 50 rooms including 12 bedrooms, a cinema, swimming pool and a lavatory seat which plays *The Star-Spangled Banner* when sat upon.

Porter 'ignored' warnings on homes sell-off

By Stephen Farrell

DAME Shirley Porter ignored the reservations of senior Westminster City Council officials and councillors over the sale of council homes in key marginal wards to potential Tory voters, a court was told yesterday.

In a series of clashes during cross-examination of her High Court challenge to a £31 million surcharge imposed by the district auditor John Magill, Dame Shirley, 66, was questioned about warnings by one senior official that her aim of selling off 500 homes a year was "on the edge of perversity".

Alun Jones, QC, for the district auditor, told her: "Your approach as leader of the council, I suggest, was that your first, foremost and primary consideration was not to fulfil your duty to the people living in Westminster but to make sure you got re-elected in 1990."

He pointed to a report in June 1987 in which Graham England, Westminster's former housing director, questioned the council's proposals to sell off 500 council homes a year across the city. Up to 250 of these were to be in eight marginal wards where, the ruling Conservative group wanted to attract pro-Tory voters.

Mr Jones said: "Did Mr England tell you that he thought 500 was on the edge of perversity? He could not justifiably more than 172."

Dame Shirley said she did not recall the choice of words. Although others had made representations she did not recall them being as forceful as he claimed. She said the council always took independent legal advice before enacting policies.

"Never at any time did I do anything or take any actions that were not on behalf of the citizens of Westminster and I am not aware that I did anything improper at any time," she said.

She also denied claims that she had "bullied" council officers, saying she had listened to everything they said. "I did not know where the evidence is for that. I think I asked them to work hard," she said.

Dame Shirley and four former Westminster officers and councillors are appealing against the surcharge. They claim the district auditor acted unlawfully and unfairly by accusing them of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" between 1987 and 1989. The hearing is expected to last five weeks.

Ministers to allow free vote on gay age of consent

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



Morris said ruling gives young gays hope

MPs are to have a free vote on whether to lower the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled yesterday that the law should be changed.

The Government said it would drop its opposition to legal challenges brought by two young gay men and instead refer the issue of the homosexual age of consent to Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

The deal was announced after the European Commission of Human Rights yesterday upheld the men's claim that the present age of consent of 18 contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights. It is

three years since MPs were last asked for their views during changes to the Tory Government's Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. Then, the Commons voted to lower the age from 21 to 18, but not to equalise it with the heterosexual age of consent.

Labour's majority now makes a vote for equality likely, with legislation by the end of the next parliamentary session at the latest.

The two London men who each took cases to Europe, Euan Sutherland, 20, of Dulwich, and Chris Morris, 18, of Ealing, claimed the unequal age of consent violated their rights under Article 8 of the European Convention, on the right to privacy, and Article 14, which protects against discrimination.

Mr Sutherland said: "The law

should treat everyone equally and it angers me that young gay men can still be treated as criminals."

"I am delighted that the Government has decided not to contest the case and that we will have another opportunity of persuading MPs to vote for equality."

Mr Sutherland, who was 17 when he began his legal action, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "Enough damage was being done to people up and down the country."

"You didn't have to be prosecuted, the mere threat, the mere thought of ending up in prison because of a sexual relationship is quite damaging to young people," he said. "By reducing the age of consent to 16, we are encouraging people to make informed decisions. We are not

asking them to have sex. We are not encouraging them to have sex."

Mr Morris said the decision would help young gays to "express themselves better. It's very hard to come out especially if you're saying not only am I a gay but also a criminal."

The commission heard Mr Sutherland's case in Strasbourg in May last year. Mr Morris's case has not been heard. It said yesterday that the law was discriminatory and that "no objective and reasonable justification exists for the maintenance of a higher minimum age of consent to male homosexual than to heterosexual acts".

Angela Mason, director of the gay rights group Stonewall, which backed the men, said: "A free vote in Parliament will be an opportunity to

break with the centuries of discrimination and bigotry and begin the process of accepting gay men and lesbians as equal citizens in society."

However, not all Labour MPs will vote for a change. Donald Anderson, who voted against reducing the age to 16 in 1994, said he would do so again.

The real issue was the protection of young people, he said. "I believe that to go lower than that [18] you make many vulnerable young people, who can be manipulated, move into a lifestyle which is not their own."

"Many young men go through a homosexual phase, they flirt with homosexuality within that sort of age group, and may be manipulated into a homosexual community, into a community which is not their own."

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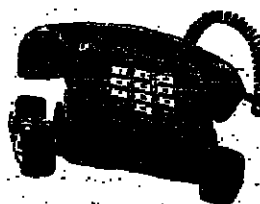
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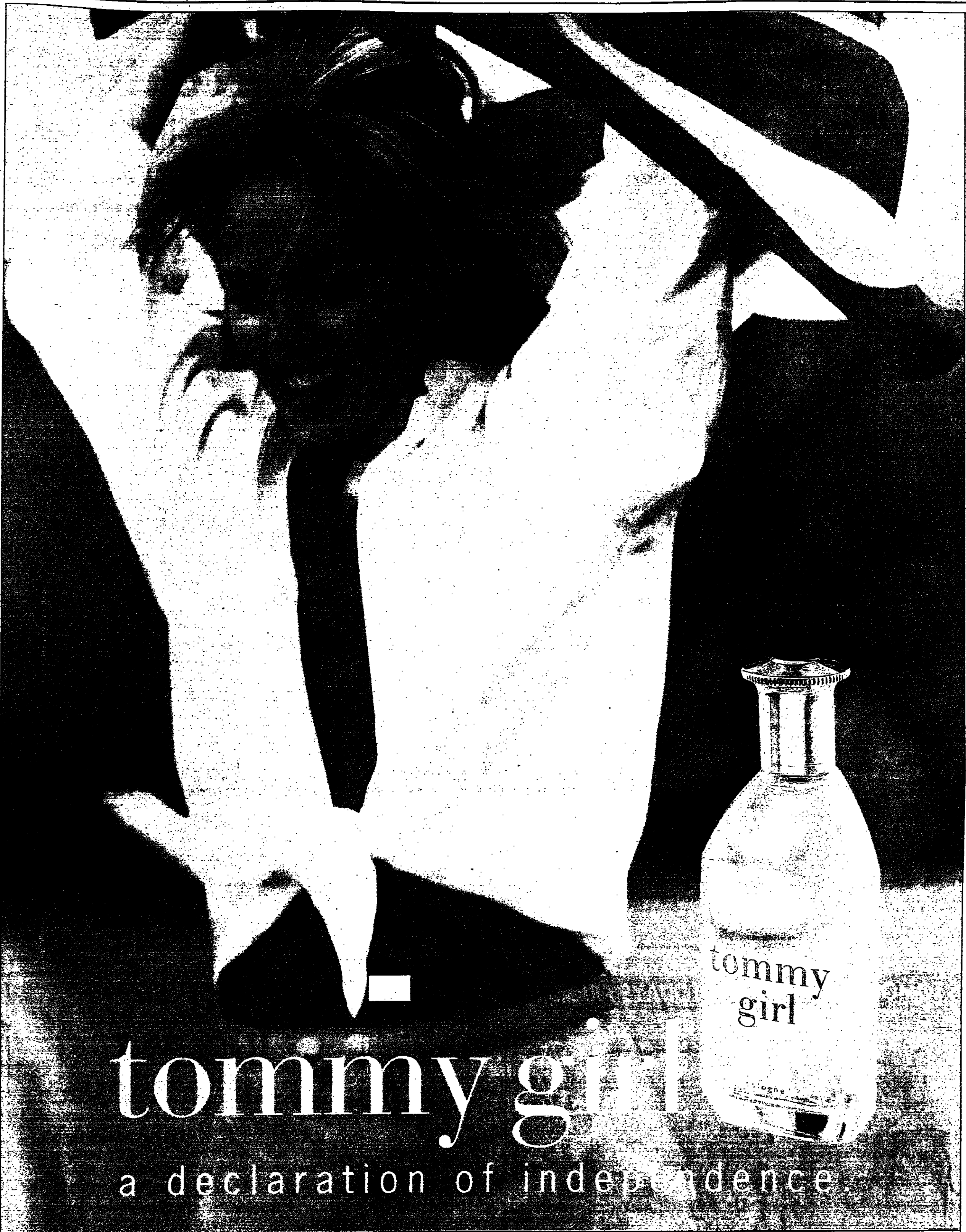
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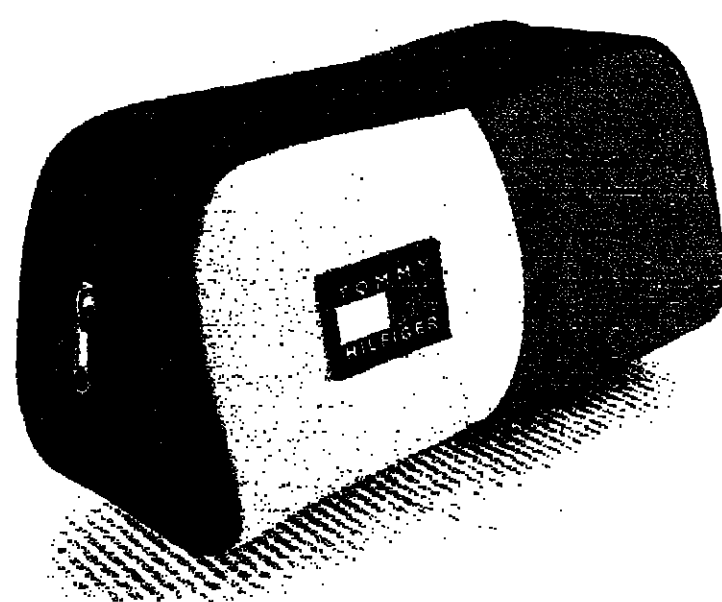
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'I want this party to be the greatest'

Unite behind my reforms, Hague urges

THE SPEECH

By Polly Newton
POLITICAL REPORTER

WILLIAM HAGUE called on his party yesterday to unite and fight, warning the Tories that they had "a mountain to climb" before they could regain power.

He pledged to use the endorsement given to him by Conservative Party members to press ahead with fundamental reform. "I have no illusion about the mammoth task ahead of us. But I pledge with every breath in my body to do everything in my power to rebuild this party," he said.

He promised to involve rank and file Tories more than ever in shaping policy. But he said that, although they should not be afraid of debate, they must unite around the policies that were agreed.

"When I say we are going to double our party's membership, transform our organisation and take the time and trouble to listen to millions of people, I mean it. And I mean

true strength of a party is judged by whether it can develop the ideas and bring on the talent to meet the challenges that this country will face in the future."

He and party members knew why the Conservatives had lost the election. "People thought we had lost touch with those we always claimed to represent. Our parliamentary party came to be seen as divided, arrogant, selfish and conceited. Our party as a whole was regarded as out of touch and irrelevant." Now it had to show the British people that it had learnt its lesson and would change.

Mr Hague said that the Tories should never forget that John Major and Margaret Thatcher had transformed Britain's economy from "a basket case" into one of the healthiest in the world. "We slashed taxes, we freed huge industries from the dead hand of state control, we handed power to consumers, families, parents and individuals."

The party should not be afraid of the future. "It now falls to all of us to make the changes to push forward the new ideas." He wanted the support of more young voters, more black and Asian people in the party and more women Tory MPs. "I want nothing less than to turn this party into the greatest volunteer party in the western world."

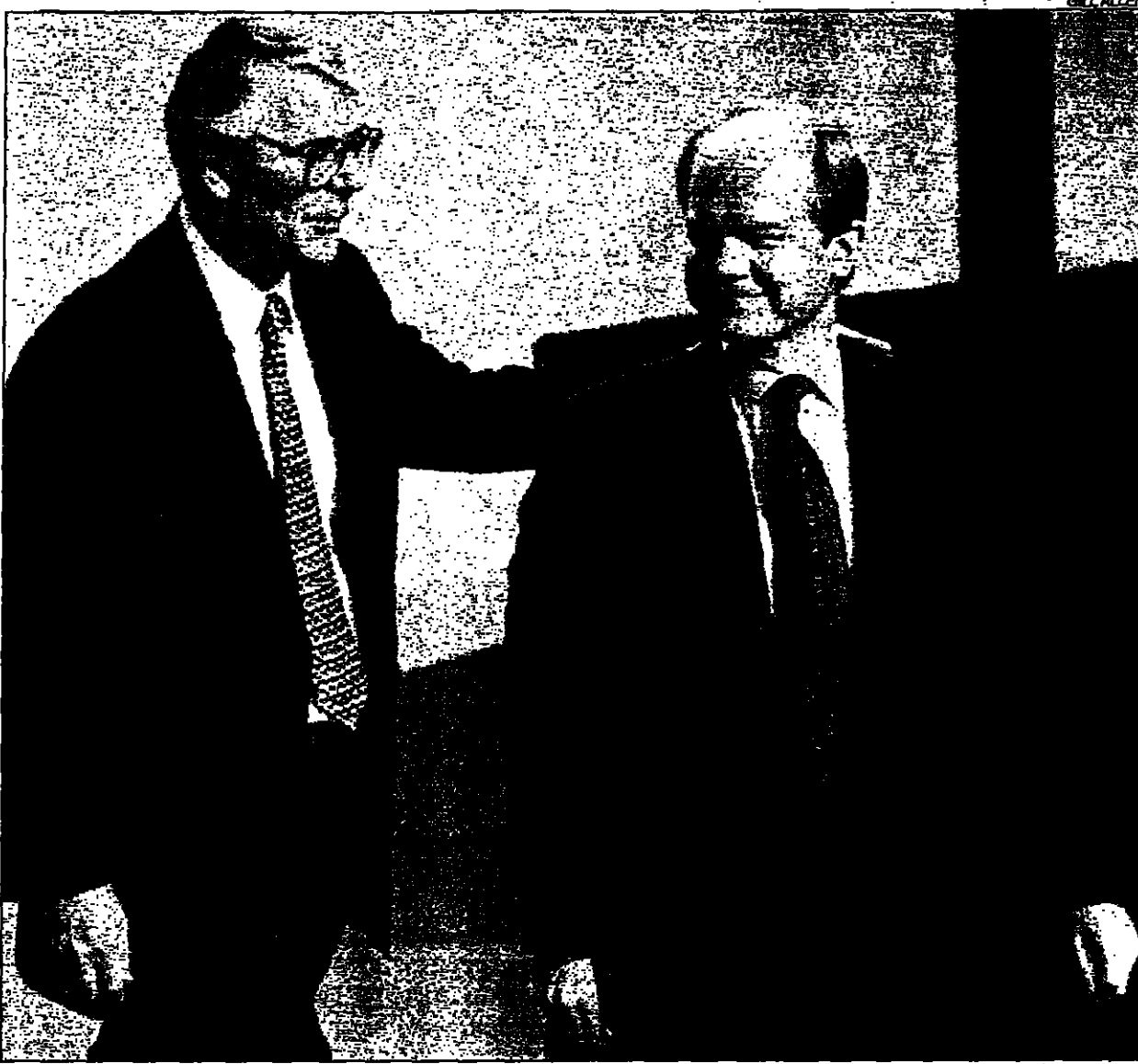
The Tories would be a constructive Opposition, supporting the Government when it deserved praise but speaking out when it was wrong. In contrast, the Liberal Democrats had sold out. "Just look at Paddy Ashdown — bright eyes, quivering nose, panting heavily, begging, whimpering ecstatically for the next scrap chucked down from Labour's Cabinet table."

Remember how Harold Wilson had his famous labradors? Now, for the second time in my lifetime, we have a Labour Prime Minister with a faithful pet called Paddy."

Earlier, Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, said the ballot on reforms had revealed a Tory membership of almost 400,000, more than the leadership had expected.

He praised Mr Hague as a man of substance and principle. But he was a modern man, rejecting stuffiness and complacency.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article and
Letters, page 19



John Major demonstrating support yesterday for William Hague "an able man of talent and integrity"

Major pledges loyalty and condemns public brawling

JOHN MAJOR called on the Conservative Party yesterday to rediscover the art of working together as he pinpointed the unruly behaviour of Tory MPs as a key factor in the scale of the election defeat.

The former Prime Minister was given an affectionate reception by activists who appeared determined to show that they did not hold him responsible for the calamity of May 1.

He brought off the near-impossible — standing ovations before and after a speech in which he delivered scathing veiled criticism of Baroness Thatcher, the heroine of every Tory conference.

Mr Major, whose frustration at what he regards as the lack of support he received from Lady Thatcher and her acolytes has been known for years, promised that he would give William Hague the unqualified support in public and in private that he had a right to expect from his predecessor.

Gaspes intermingled with cheers as he continued: "If I should disagree with William, I'll do it in private, not on College Green [the area outside the Commons used by camera crews for political interviews], not on the media, not in anonymous briefings to the press that breed suspicion and distrust."

Rank and file affection
for the former Prime
Minister is plain to see,
reports Philip Webster

Mr Major was cheered throughout by activists who saw him as a man getting off his chest in an address to a party audience the anger at the way his parliamentary colleagues had behaved. He told the activists that the election defeat was not their defeat. But when he added "perhaps it was mine", there were loud shouts of "No".

There were cheers of agreement when he suggested that the cause might have been that "divided views — expressed without restraint — in the parliamentary party made our positions impossible".

In a reference to the way that sleaze allegations, particularly the Neil Hamilton affair, dogged his Government to the end, Mr Major said that he was backing Mr Hague's reforms because "never again must we be constitutionally powerless to deal with people whose

behaviour is damaging to the party as a whole".

Before the election, Mr Major and the Tory hierarchy had wanted Mr Hamilton to step aside, but they had no power to force him.

Mr Major said of the lost election: "Rather than brood over it, we must accept our defeat as gracefully as we can. We shouldn't waste our time in pointless recrimination." Things could not be left as they were.

"It's a simple choice: reform the party, back William Hague, rediscover the art of working together, fight every seat, for every vote — or fight one another and lose elections."

He declared: "I know my choice. I'm backing William. I'm backing him because he's an able man of talent and integrity with a tough job ahead. It will be difficult being the leader of a newly defeated party."

"For a while, people won't wish to listen to what we have to say. But that will pass. The tide will turn — and, as the local election results are already suggesting, perhaps more speedily than anyone imagines."

With that Mr Major was away, leaving swiftly with his wife, Norma, for a lecture tour in America.

The long route to reversing Tory fortunes

By James Landale
POLITICAL REPORTER

A NEW "ethics and integrity" committee will police the standards of Conservative MPs as part of plans to combat sleaze.

A 39-page "green paper" of reforms for the party published yesterday also proposes that the Tory leadership should have the power to suspend or expel any party member whose behaviour "lacks integrity and which is likely to bring the Party as a whole into disrepute".

The new committee would include the chairman of the backbench 1922 Committee and a senior representative of the voluntary wing and would meet twice a year and judge cases. Individuals under investigation will have the right to appear before it.

A governing "board", set up to run the new party, will have the final decision on what disciplinary powers are used.

Any party member or official who refuses to accept the decision of the committee could be suspended, as could an entire constituency executive which refused, for example, to acknowledge that their MP had been found guilty of misconduct.

The anti-sleaze moves are just one of a wide range of reforms which will be debated over the winter and agreed at a special conference in the spring. The document says the decline in organisation and membership is structural, not just cyclical, and there is no evidence of a revival of membership and activism.

The party has half the number of councillors it had in the 1980s and membership has declined from an estimated one million members in 1979 to just "a few hundred thousand". Last year the constituencies provided just four per cent of the national party income and the number of professional agents has fallen from more than 500 in the 1950s to 148.

Key proposals include: Structure: A single "streamlined" party unifying the three existing and separate wings — MPs, Central Office and voluntary party. An all-powerful board would have 12 to 14 members including six elected from the voluntary party. Underneath the board, would come a "national convention", made up of local party and area chairmen.

Leadership: Although the case for membership involve-

ment is "overwhelming", MPs would still have the right to initiate a contest and put forward candidates. Members would take part via an electoral college but the document does not say at what stage. The college will have a "significant" percentage of the ballot but the amount is not given.

Constitution: A new constitution will be drawn up. A constitutional college will be set up to adapt the document where necessary.

Membership: A national membership list will be kept, regularly up-dated, on a computer at Central Office. Subscription rates will be standardised, with a "gold card" giving greater rights to merchandise and party documents. Members might also be given the right to elect local party chairmen.

Youth: Young Conservatives, Conservative Students and Conservative Graduates could be merged into one body called Conservative Future.

Alternatively, Conservative Future would be an umbrella organisation over separate identities. The party aims to double membership in two years with half the new members under 36.

Women: Programmes will be set up to encourage women to stand as Parliamentary candidates and local parties will be encouraged to have women as 25 per cent of contenders interviewed in first round of the selection process. A Conservative Women's Network should get more women involved in the party.

Constituencies: Resources should be shared among constituencies. In populous urban areas, "city offices" should be set up to coordinate organisations under one agent. In rural areas, some constituency offices should be twinned.

Local government: A "Conservative Councillors' Association" should be set up to coordinate Tories in local government. One councillor would be elected to the board. Communications: A computerised communications network will be set up to increase information between Mr Hague's private office, MPs, Central Office and constituency offices.

Involvement: The Conservative Political Centre, which debates policy and disseminates it to members, will be beefed up into a national policy development forum with direct input into the Leadership.

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Munish Chopra speaking yesterday

Tory boy follows leader's footsteps

By Polly Newton

TWENTY years after the young William Hague made his Conservative conference debut in Blackpool, a 15-year-old boy told the same hall that he hoped to follow in the Tory leader's footsteps.

Munish Chopra, a member of Solihull Young Conservatives, opened his speech with a reference to Mr Hague and his performance at the age of 16. He said: "This young man now leads our party. Today another young man speaks before you. I hope in years to come I can echo his success."

He said he was lucky to have grown up under a Tory Government that had offered educational opportunities he would not otherwise have enjoyed. "Young people do not want to live on handouts from the Government. Young people do not want to be patronised, but we want the opportunity to make something of ourselves. They, I, want to grow up in a society which gives the chance to fulfil dreams and ambitions."

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Sausages, eggs and no nonsense at Mrs Cumpsty's B&B

Kenneth Clarke has chosen an archetypal landlady, writes Andrew Pierce

KENNETH CLARKE, who was one of the few Cabinet ministers to stand up to Margaret Thatcher, has now met an even more formidable taskmaster: Dorree Cumpsty.

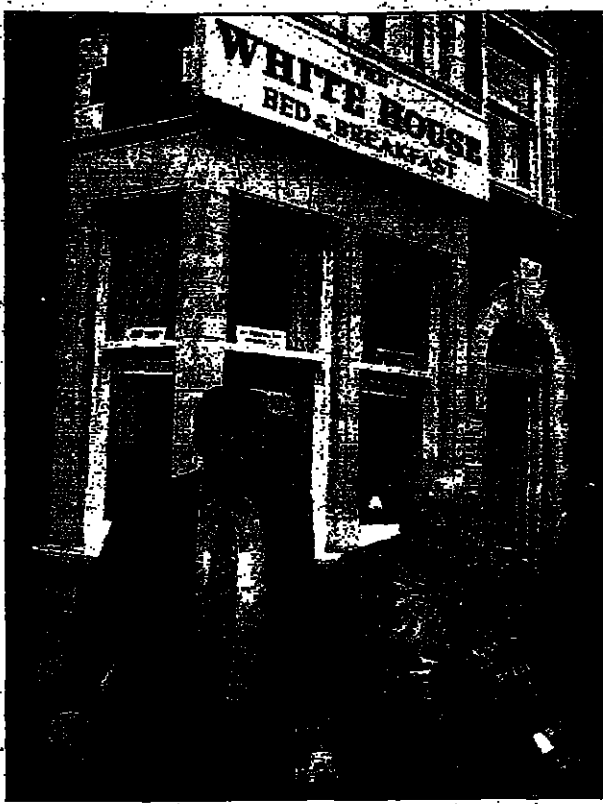
The former Chancellor of the Exchequer, who controlled billions of pounds and was put up in the most luxurious hotels in the world before the election, is staying at Mrs Cumpsty's £25-a-night bed-and-breakfast lodgings 20 yards from the rear entrance of the Winter Gardens.

Mr Clarke has discovered that Mrs Cumpsty is an archetypal seaside boarding house landlady who brooks no nonsense from guests, whoever they are. John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary, and his wife, Penny, are in the next room. Michael McManus, private secretary to Sir Edward Heath, who worked on Mr Clarke's leadership bid, is on the same floor.

They are staying in the aptly named White House, but Mr Clarke, whose former Cabinet colleagues are staying in £400 suites at the five-star Imperial Hotel, cannot afford to have any delusions of grandeur.

"There are no frills here," Mrs Cumpsty said. "What you see is what you get. I make that clear straight away to all my guests."

For £25 a night Mr Clarke



The Clarke's setting off for the conference yesterday

has the luxury of an en-suite bathroom, television, tea and coffee making facilities in his room, and heated outside corridor. The breakfast regime is strict at the 12-room detached house. Breakfast is

at 8.15am or 8.30 sharp. "I get up half an hour earlier to prepare it," Mrs Cumpsty said.

Mr Clarke, as he sat down for breakfast today, had a choice of three cereals fol-

lowed by bacon, egg, sausage and house. "They can have a tomato if they don't want beans," said Mrs Cumpsty, who has never been abroad or even to London in her 50 years.

Guests sit at the same table each day in the dining room, which is decorated with blue floral wallpaper, matching curtains and carpet, and pink chandeliers. There is a mini-electric organ if Mr Clarke wants to lead the other guests, who are all conference representatives, in a sing-song.

"The rules are strict," said the chatty Mrs Cumpsty, whose favourite tipple is whisky and lemonade. "I don't have stag parties here. We are not that sort of establishment. People can come and go as they please but they must not bring anyone back."

"I think we are just as good as the Imperial. We might not have a bar, swimming pool or restaurant, but we are much cozier and we don't need all the staff." The floral sheets and duvet covers are changed every other day.

Mr Clarke, who has picked up two lucrative City jobs since he left the front bench, is suitably impressed. "I am not skulking in here. It is very cosy. It is right next to the conference centre, which means I don't get caught in



Mrs Cumpsty is proud of her £25-a-night boarding house: "I think we are just as good as the Imperial," she says

the rain. The Gummerts have been coming here for 20 years.

"Fenny suggested to my wife that we all stay together. I thought not being at the Imperial would have an ad-

vantage. I thought that I would avoid the press."

Mrs Cumpsty and her husband, Jack, who run a block of seaside flats across the road, were bemused by the fuss about having Mr Clarke

under their roof. She said: "We are always full up with conference guests. We don't take a lot of notice of them."

Mr Cumpsty was even less impressed. "I don't even know who the Tory leader is. Wil-

liam Haug, isn't it? We voted Labour anyway. But don't tell Mr Clarke. We would like him to come back next year. He would have made a much better leader than William Haug."

'We must defend rural life'

DAVID CURRY, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the Tories were the party that fought for the countryside (Polly Newton writes).

Speaking in a debate on rural life, Mr Curry said the Government seemed determined to challenge rural attitudes, particularly towards field sports. But, he said, the Conservatives must be the party of commuters, businessmen, teachers and others who lived and worked in rural areas, not just of the farmer and the sportsman.

"We fight for a countryside which, in its little industrial estates, its converted mills, its farm buildings, its small offices, is one of the great driving forces behind a vibrant, competitive economy based on enterprise, risk and innovation."

Fowler signals an end to rate-capping policy

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories are to abandon the policy introduced by Margaret Thatcher of capping council spending. The move is intended to revive the battered morale of Tory councillors who, after successive election defeats, hold just 25 councils.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Environment Secretary, speaking in the opening debate of the Conservative conference, promised that the party would listen to the concerns of Tory councillors. The Conservative Government introduced rate-capping, to expose high-spending Labour councils.

Sir Norman announced yesterday that he would set up a group, which would include councillors, to examine every

aspect of Conservative policy on local government. The group would look "not just at structure and funding but also at the services which local government is responsible". Sir Norman said. "And yes, we will look again at whether or not we should support the capping of every local authority."

He conceded: "Too often in the past, we have not given our councillors the backing they deserve. Too often in the past, Tory ministers visited local areas without letting Conservative councillors know that they were there."

"So let us resolve, here and now: no more separation of national and local campaigning — we will win together or not at all."

"And no more treating Conservative councillors as second-class citizens — we will

listen to them work with them, and win with them."

Tory councillors have demanded that the capping of spending should be ended, arguing that it concealed the tendency of Labour and the Liberal Democrats to overspend. Under the scheme, individual councils are prevented from spending above a specified amount.

Labour's long-term plan is to lift capping but John Prescott, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, indicated recently that the policy would be retained for a further year in an attempt to contain local government spending.

Sir Norman said that more than 4,000 council seats would come up for election next year, and in May 1999 there would be a further 12,000. The Tories were winning council by-elections.



Fowler: promised to work with councillors

where our priorities lie. Local government, local government and local government."

Sir Norman said that Labour was vulnerable over its record in local government. The Labour Party itself had taken disciplinary action in a number of localities, he said. He urged Tony Blair to set up an independent commission with special powers to investigate and report to the public, rather than "cosy internal party inquiries".

Lost seats to have MP twins

CONSTITUENCIES that lost their Conservative MP at the election will be "twinned" with one from another seat under an initiative announced yesterday (Polly Newton writes).

The scheme was unveiled by Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Leader of the House, who said it would help local Conservative Associations without their own MP to maintain a personal link with the House of Commons.

Mrs Shephard said that twinned MPs would provide a regular Westminster report for the constituencies under their wing.

More than 130 of the seats which the Tories lost on May 1 have already been allocated a twin. The scheme will cover Scotland and Wales, where there are no Tory MPs.

Dorrell attacks tuition fees plan

By JILL SHERMAN

STEPHEN DORRELL criticised Labour's decision to impose tuition fees on university students and vowed the Tories would vote against the Bill in the Commons.

The Shadow Education Secretary also criticised the Government's "centrist" education policy which he said would erode choice for parents, pupils and teachers.

"Labour want to give back power to the man in Whitehall. We believe it is parents and pupils and teachers who should have the power in the education system. We want to give real choice back to real people."

In a fringe speech last night Mr Dorrell turned on Labour for rejecting the main proposals in the Dearing report on higher education. Sir Ron

Dearing had recommended imposing 25 per cent tuition fees, but he did not propose the abolition of maintenance grants. Labour decided to ignore that at its peril, said Mr Dorrell.

"Mr Blunkett's policy for higher education is, in reality, a dog's breakfast. He has been told by the Treasury to cut spending on student maintenance despite Dearing's recommendations to the contrary."

"He has introduced the principle of student contributions to tuition costs without giving either student or university the assurance that the tuition fee will be available to the university. In doing so he is breaking faith with everybody."

He also criticised plans to phase out the assisted places scheme at private schools.

Mass membership will not guarantee party's revival

THE main political parties have all been struggling to maintain their democratic legitimacy. They have faced declines both in party activism and in their traditional sources of funds. In response, Labour, before the election, and the Tories, now, in their *Blueprint for Change* proposals, have sought to create a mass membership which has a direct say in the election of the leader and is regularly consulted on policy.

Yesterday this was presented as implementing two of William Hague's six main principles — democracy and involvement. It all seems an age away from the party's

traditional hierarchical approach, in which the leadership took all the decisions, and the rank and file's main role was to applaud, and to canvass.

But the reality is different. What is actually happening, with both Labour and the Tories, is the creation of a plebiscitary rather than a participatory system. The national leadership is likely to be strengthened and the new mass membership may be no substitute for the old activist base.

The Blairite Labour Party is, in practice, a highly centralised campaigning organisation. The rise in individual Labour membership of

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

more than three quarters over the past three years to well over 400,000 has not changed the way decisions are taken. Mr Blair has sought ratification from the increased number of members for his new initiatives — both the rewriting of Clause Four and last year's pre-manifesto programme — but he has not really involved them in policymaking. Mass membership ballots are a way for the leadership to go over the heads of the more

committed, and "old" Labour, activists, and trade union leaders. The new members are an adjunct to the professional campaigners, while also being an important additional source of finance.

A national membership scheme of the type also envisaged by the Tories has obvious advantages in efficiency and fundraising. But there is considerable academic evidence that nationally recruited members are much less active than locally recruited ones. As Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, a leading authority on party organisation, recently told a conference at Essex University, "the modern method of

recording and renewing subscriptions leads to a more passive membership. Whereas 'old membership' may have had something of the quality of membership of a local church, new membership may be more akin to a subscription to the Automobile Association or to a national charity: in other words, it generally leads to a flurry of 'junk mail' from the headquarters but to little participation."

So even if the Tories achieve Mr Hague's ambitious target of doubling membership to 800,000 — and eventually aiming for one million — the health and activism of local parties may not automati-

cally revive. Mr Hague has proposed to involve members in votes on the main programme on which the party will fight the next election, and possibly also on big issues such as the single currency. But, despite all the talk of "listening" and shaking up the party's political education side, the emphasis is still top down, rather than down up.

The new model political party will be more open, particularly in its fundraising, and will involve ordinary members more in internal elections. These are all desirable in themselves. Moreover, we are anyway moving to a more formal system of rules regulating

parties. Political parties will have to be formally registered under the system of proportional representation for the Scottish, Welsh and European elections. The Government has anyway promised legislation banning foreign donations and the subject will be reviewed by the Nolan committee.

But this is not really more democratic or participatory. The new members have to be offered a greater say and more information to persuade them to part with their money. But the leadership retains the levers of power.

PETER RIDDELL

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Turkish troops kill 500 Kurds

Ankara: Turkish forces have killed 538 Kurdish separatist rebels in a three-week incursion into northern Iraq, Turkish military officials said yesterday. They gave no figure for Turkish losses, but said that four soldiers were wounded.

About 15,000 Turkish troops crossed the border three weeks ago in a push against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas. More than 26,000 people have been killed in the 13-year conflict.

In another incident, 50 guerrillas died when a convoy of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) was reportedly ambushed, apparently by the PKK, south of Arbil. The KDP is allied with Turkey.

A United Nations convoy came under fire near the Turkish border in northern Iraq but there were no casualties, according to a UN spokesman in Baghdad. (Reuters, AFP)

'Mad' widow holds out against US police siege

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

SEPARATIST militiamen from all over America have rallied to the side of a 51-year-old widow in rural Illinois who, refusing to comply with a court order for a psychiatric examination, has barricaded herself in her farmhouse as heavily armed police laid siege outside for the sixteenth successive day.

Up to 50 policemen are attempting to secure the surrender of Shirley Allen, from the town of Robie, near Springfield, whose siblings and stepdaughter won a court order last month that obliges her to take a mental test.

Mrs Allen, who does not doubt her own sanity and who believes that the judge's writ is a manoeuvre to take her farm away from her, slammed the door in the face of the legal officer who tried to serve the papers on her last month.

The police soon arrived — first in one patrol car, then two, and finally 15 — to "coax" her to come out. She refused, spraying them spiritedly with buckshot. Mrs Allen asserts

that since she has broken no law and "done no one no harm", she is entitled to be at liberty. Her arguments have won support from neighbours and friends, many of whom have conducted heated exchanges with police officers.

Since September 22, the police have tried everything to get Mrs Allen out, using tear gas and "bean bag" bullets. Memorably, they even played



Allen in an undated family photograph

a Barry Manilow record on their loud hailer, in the hope that the uncanny crooner's music would drive her to turn herself in. Copacabana, however, failed to break her resistance.

The police have now cut off her water, her telephone line and her electricity. Residents are enraged, as are an assortment of separatist militiamen, many of whom have rallied to the scene. One of them, Scott Slinkard, of the Southern Illinois Patriots' League, told ABC television: "We can't tolerate this in our country. Shirley Allen is not a threat. I'm not a threat. Those guys down there in uniforms and tactical suits — now they're the real threat."

Under Illinois law, a judge can commit a person to a mental institution for treatment if it is shown that the person is a danger to himself or others, even if no criminal allegation is involved.

In a case like Mrs Allen's — in which the only way to secure the psychological evi-

dence needed to commit her is for her to take a mental examination — the judge can order her to be examined if he has prima facie evidence to show that such tests would be justified.

The testimony of her relatives, it appears, satisfied the judge. They claimed that Mrs Allen, widowed in 1989, is paranoid and poses "a threat to herself and the public".

Had Mrs Allen been brought in as planned, a psychiatrist at the St John's Hospital in Springfield would have conducted the evaluation and determined whether a commitment was justified.

Don Jackson, a Springfield radio talk show host who has spent days lambasting the police's handling of the case, said: "People are frightened that this could happen to them."

Mrs Allen has also received support from the American Civil Liberties Union, which points out that commitment law is frequently abused by relatives for financial gain.



Babes in arms: Four-month-old orangutans hold each other at a rehabilitation centre in Kalimantan on the Indonesian side of Borneo. The World Wide Fund for Nature estimates that at least 29 orangutans have died because of recent forest fires

WORLD IN BRIEF

Papon defiant over war crimes charges

Bordeaux: Maurice Papon, 87, the former French Cabinet minister accused of sending hundreds of Jews to their deaths during the Second World War, was consigned to a Bordeaux prison cell last night to await the start of his trial today for alleged crimes against humanity (Ben Macintyre writes). The former civil servant remained defiant as he turned himself in at Gradien Prison, outside Bordeaux, on the eve of the trial.

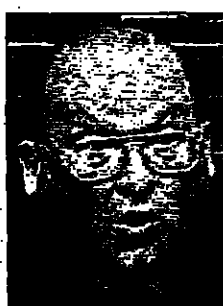
M Papon accused the prosecution of "falsifying history", and condemned the trial as "a masquerade unworthy of a law-abiding nation". Under French law, in such serious cases the accused is usually required to remain in prison throughout the trial, but at today's initial hearing, defence lawyers are expected to argue M Papon should be released on bail because of his age and ill health. M Papon's lawyer has claimed that his client will not be able to withstand the strain of a three-month trial if he is forced to stay in jail.

400 die in Sri Lanka battle

Colombo: More than 400 people died in two days of heavy fighting as Sri Lankan troops trying to capture a key northern highway fought off attacks by Tamil Tiger rebels. The Defence Ministry said about 350 rebels and 64 soldiers, including four officers, died in the battle to capture the highway linking the government-held frontline town of Vavuniya to Jaffna peninsula. The fighting occurred as troops advanced towards Mankulam, 165 miles northeast of Colombo. The ministry said the rebels were having difficulty taking out their dead and wounded after the military blocked key road links. The rebel death toll was based on intercepted Tiger radio transmissions and bodies on the battlefield, officials said. (Reuters)

Police reforms under fire

Brussels: Jean-Luc Dehaene, right, the Belgian Prime Minister, set out his Government's plans for streamlining the country's three police forces, whose reputations are at a low ebb over a series of mishandled child rape and murder cases. But, even before the ink was dry on the well-leaked plan, a typical Belgian compromise, it came under attack from police, magistrates, politicians and the media, who denounced it as either muddled or inadequate, or both. (Reuter)



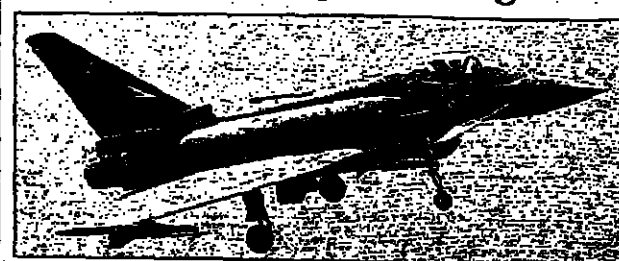
Labour reassures Gibraltar

Gibraltar: During the first visit by a British minister since the May general election, Douglas Henderson, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, assured Gibraltarians that Britain remains committed to the future of the Rock (Dominique Searle writes). He is not expected to announce any change in policy. Last month Ken Purchase, parliamentary private secretary to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, angered some opposition politicians when he said Spain, as well as Britain and Gibraltar, held the key to a solution of the disputed sovereignty issue.

Nazis 'stole £5.3bn in gold'

Los Angeles: Nazi Germany stole at least \$8.5 billion (£5.3 billion) in gold at today's prices — about \$1.5 billion more than previously believed — from its own citizens, Europe's Jews and the treasuries of the countries it occupied, according to a report by Sidney Zahndoff, an international economist, published by the World Jewish Congress. The report said that Switzerland was the first stop for 85 per cent of the \$5.2 billion in gold that Germany sent out of the country during the war. (Reuters)

Bonn set to buy Eurofighter



The German Government is expected to approve the purchase of 180 Eurofighter combat aircraft, above, at a cost of DM23.5 billion (£8.5 billion) at a crucial Cabinet meeting today (Michael Evans writes). Yesterday the Free Democrats (FDP), the junior partner in Government, said it would back the aircraft programme since the Eurofighter was vital for Germany's defence and would promote European co-operation in other high-technology projects. In the past, the FDP has been split over Eurofighter. Even if Cabinet approval is forthcoming, the final hurdle will come next month when the Bundestag will vote on Germany's continued participation in a programme it threatened to leave two years ago.

High-voltage protest

Tirana: Three towns in southern Albania suffered a four-hour blackout after a man who had failed to cross into Greece threatened to hang himself from a high-voltage pylon. Police ordered the power supply to be turned off while villagers tried to tempt Neim Lisi, 19, down, with bread and water. The police finally enticed him off the pylon with promises of either a job in the police or papers to reach Greece. (Reuter)

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 1997

Emotions tell as Foale recalls Mir collision

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IT TAKES a lot to puncture the steel nerves of Michael Foale, but memories of a near-fatal collision in space left the British-born astronaut struggling for words yesterday.

Returning finally to the Kennedy Space Centre after more than four months on board the Mir Russian space station, Dr Foale offered his first public assessment of the incident in which an unmanned resupply ship collided with the ageing craft.

Loyal to the last about his blighted mission and fellow cosmonauts, the astronaut nonetheless was unable to conceal the profound effect on the crew of the accident in June, the worst in Mir's 11-year history.

Dr Foale said that Vasili Tsibilyev, the former Russian commander of Mir, had blamed himself for the incident when he used a remote control device to steer the Progress resupply ship into the Spektr science module, piercing its airtight solar panels.

Commander Tsibilyev, initially blamed for the accident by officials at the Belkonur cosmodrome, was further swayed in self-guilt after he recognised that an irregular heartbeat would prevent him from making an essential spacewalk to begin repairs on the damaged module.

The cosmonaut was effectively cleared of personal responsibility by an official

inquiry last week but Dr Foale recounted his colleague's feelings as the most memorable moment of the voyage. "He felt responsible for the whole accident... which I don't quite feel," said Dr Foale, 40, who, suddenly choked by emotion and unable to continue, added: "No, this is too hard to talk about."

It was the first sign of a crack in the otherwise resolute and good-humoured armour that has been Dr Foale's seemingly constant public face since he blasted off into orbit in May. During his 145 days in space, Dr Foale, who has a PhD in astrophysics from Cambridge, had endured a catalogue of errors ranging from the collision to constant technical failures, including

the removal of a critical computer cable that left Mir drifting in orbit without power or heating.

In the final ignominy, his return trip to Earth had been delayed by a day after thick clouds prevented Atlantis, the US space shuttle, from landing at Cape Canaveral as scheduled on Sunday night.

Wearing a Stars and Stripes baseball cap, sitting in front of his wife, Rhonda, and clutching the couple's two children, Jenna and Ian, he said that his first goal was to learn how to walk again after the weightlessness of space. "I don't feel particularly heavy but I am a little uncertain in terms of walking and balance," he said. "I probably want to get strong enough to go outside and walk

... I am very glad to be holding these children."

Ian, three, has learnt to talk while his father has been in orbit. Dr Foale described him as a "rebel" and said Jenna, a giggling five-year-old, had become a "little lady" in the time he had spent away from home.

While his wife, a former NASA geologist, had bought copious supplies of his favourite hamburgers to barbecue at their home at Galveston Bay, outside Houston, Dr Foale had already spent his delayed hours on board the space shuttle ordering his first proper meal in four months. By the time that Atlantis had glided to a halt, NASA had prepared a vegetable lasagna, pizza with every topping available and chocolate-chip cookies.

The Foales, who are planning a windsurfing holiday in Mexico as soon as the NASA debriefings are complete, were visibly relieved to be together. "I am looking forward to a vacation in the sun and getting a tan," Dr Foale said. "After that, who knows? Europe or Russia maybe."

□ Cargo delay: An unmanned cargo craft loaded with refuse was detached from Mir a day late yesterday. Mission Control blamed the delay on the crew forgetting to detach a locking device. The replacement cargo craft, carrying oxygen, fuel, water and scientific equipment, is scheduled to dock with Mir today. (Reuters)



Rhonda Foale, with a poster featuring a tool kit to welcome her husband home from his Mir mission



Michael Foale hugs his children, Ian and Jenna, at the Kennedy Space Centre

Mossad inquiry branded as fraud

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LEADING members of Israel's left-wing Opposition yesterday dismissed as a "fraud and whitewash" the Government's move to set up a commission to investigate last month's bungled Mossad plot to assassinate a Hamas leader in Jordan.

In a blistering attack on Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Prime Minister, Ehud Barak, the newly appointed head of the main opposition Labour Party, said: "It is impossible to sleep at night when this is the manner of decision-making in the Prime Minister's office."

Mr Barak, Israel's most decorated soldier, who once acted as Mr Netanyahu's commander in an elite anti-terrorist unit, added: "This is not a partisan subject. It is a matter of national responsibility. The Prime Minister's wretched decision in the matter of the action in Amman caused serious damage to our relations with Jordan, the exposure of Mossad's operational methods, Israel's exposure to reprisal acts of terror and the weakening of the struggle against terror."

Mr Netanyahu pledged that his three-man commission would conduct a full investigation. But opposition politicians and some leading members of the security establishment complained that it would lack the teeth of an independent inquiry headed by a judge.

Appeal by Prodi for Communist backing

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Italian Prime Minister, Professor Romano Prodi, yesterday struggled to save his 18-month-old Centre-Left Government from collapse, making an emotional appeal to his Communist allies in parliament to back him over his "budget for Europe". The fall of the Prodi administration could lead to new elections, a grand coalition or a caretaker government.

"The country will not understand if our Communist allies, who have given us their backing for 500 days, make a political crisis into a government crisis by voting against a budget based on investment, job creation and reform of the welfare state," Signor Prodi declared in an hour-long speech opening the debate on the 1998 budget.

"This is a decisive moment for Italy and Europe," the Prime minister said. He was given a standing ovation by the moderate Left, but Fausto Bertinotti, the leader of Communist Refoundation, sat impassively.

The Government depends on the 35 Refoundation MPs for its parliamentary majority. Signor Bertinotti said

after six hours of crisis talks with Signor Prodi on Monday night that the Government's responses to Communist demands had been "totally inadequate", and there would have to be "substantial modifications" to the budget, with further guarantees on pensions, health spending and unemployment. But he said there was "still time for negotiation".

Yesterday, Signor Bertinotti said the price for joining Europe was too high if it meant welfare cuts which damaged working people. But he left the door open for further talks by asking Signor Prodi to give him "a sign" that he was willing to meet some of the Communists' demands.

The draft 1998 budget, which includes £1.8 billion of welfare cuts, is crucial to Italy's hopes of qualifying for the European single currency by reducing the budget deficit to 3 per cent of gross domestic product, as required by the Maastricht treaty.

Hopes for a compromise with the Communists centre on proposals for a 35-hour week, and for job creation in the backward South.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with P.D. James

P.D. James, Britain's most popular crime novelist, will discuss her highly successful career, her life as a writer and her characters, including the famous Commander Adam Dalgleish - the subject of a major TV series - in The Times/Dillons forum on Thursday, October 23. Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of The Times, the forum also offers the opportunity for the audience to put questions to P.D. James. The forum marks the publication of her new book, *A Certain Justice* (Faber and Faber) £15.99 and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concession £7.50) which includes £2 off the price of the book. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted by sign language.



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Jospin's broken vows reap fury of unions

FRENCH rail workers last night mounted the first big strike of the autumn to bolster demands for a cut in the working week before an employment conference that will present the four-month-old Socialist Government with its toughest challenge so far.

The four main unions of the state-owned SNCF rail network called the 36-hour strike, due to end tomorrow morning, to press for higher wages, additional jobs and improved working conditions, but the key bone of contention is the row over whether the Government will fulfil its election promise to reduce the working week from 39 hours to 35.

SNCF officials said the strike would not affect Eurostar trains between London and Paris, but high-speed TGV routes, regional and suburban services are likely to be cut by up to two thirds today. Paris is expected to be most seriously affected, with a series of Metro strikes.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, has appeared to back off from promises to cut the working week without loss of pay. He even described the Left's election slogan — "Work 35 hours, get paid for 39" — as "anti-economic".

That stance has encouraged business leaders and boosted the stock market, but it has provoked anger among M Jospin's Communist coalition allies and left the more militant

French rail workers are striking to back campaign for shorter hours, writes Ben Macintyre in Paris

unions threatening mass action unless the measure is introduced immediately.

With France facing a crippling unemployment level of 12.5 per cent, many economists argue that reducing the working week without loss of earnings is economic suicide. Government officials have predicted it would create more than a million new jobs, but employers say it would discourage businesses from hiring more workers and put a brake on the economy just as growth is recovering.

"Switching to 35 hours is like awarding another five weeks of holiday. It would

certainly result in unacceptable cost increases and further unemployment," said Jean Gandois, head of the CNPF employers' association.

The crunch will come on Friday when the Government hosts a long-awaited conference on jobs, wages and working hours. An agreement in the short term on working hours appears highly unlikely. The employers' associations have threatened to boycott talks if the measure is pushed through by legislation.

Instead, the Government may propose a series of compromise incentives to reduce working hours over time, possibly accompanied by a pay freeze for several years.

Today's strike will be seen as a crucial test of union strength, but the issue of working hours is only one of several areas in which left-wingers have accused M Jospin of reneging on his campaign promises. His decision to reform the previous Government's tough immigration laws — contrasting with his earlier vow to abolish them completely — has led to charges of hypocrisy from the French "moral left".

Last week, more than 1,000 intellectuals and artists launched a petition calling on M Jospin to scrap the laws. However, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, has refused to grant residence permits to all 90,000 immigrant applicants.

A government-appointed committee has recommended liberalising the rules on political asylum and restoring the right of citizenship to anyone born in France. A draft immigration law will be unveiled next week.

Since his surprise election in June, M Jospin has retained high popularity ratings. But as the signs of dissent mount, the harsh reality of the contradictions between M Jospin's promises and his capacity to honour them are becoming daily more apparent.

German blow, page 31



Khaldei photographed war's fiercest fighting

Creator of Soviet icon dies at 80

Moscow: Yevgeni Khaldei, the man who took one of the most celebrated pictures of the Second World War, showing a Soviet soldier raising his national flag over the Reichstag in Berlin, died yesterday at the age of 80 (Robin Lodge writes).

Mr Khaldei, an army photographer who survived four years of some of the most bitter fighting of the war, from the German invasion in 1941 to the final crushing of the Third Reich, became one of the best-known photographers of the postwar period, despite being sacked twice for being Jewish. He photographed every Russian Communist leader from Stalin, but received no royalties.



The famed Khaldei image of the Soviet soldier on top of the Reichstag in 1945

Wealthy Russians asked to aid poor

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

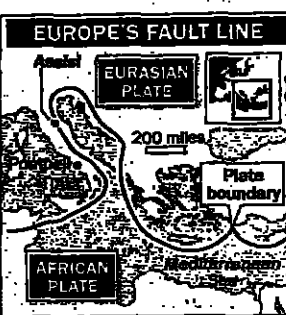
RED CROSS officials yesterday called on Russia's new wealthy to dig into their pockets to help an estimated 31 million people — more than a fifth of the population — living below the poverty line. It is feared many may not survive the winter.

At the launch of the Red Cross Winter Emergency Appeal, Boris Iorov, Vice-President of the Russian Red Cross, said it was time the country's rich assumed their social responsibilities. "We keep hearing from the bankers about the need to build a civilised society. Those bankers should be here now, because this is a real chance to build that society."

The appeal, which is being organised by the Russian Red Cross and the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, aims to draw attention to a humanitarian crisis being faced this winter by Russia and the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. It hopes to raise \$15 million (£9.3 million) — \$10 million of which would go to Russia. While a proportion of this sum will be provided by Red Cross societies abroad, the emphasis is on Russia helping itself.

Living standards in the former Soviet Union have plummeted since the collapse of state welfare and guaranteed employment. According to the World Bank, consumer prices rose in Russia by nearly 400 per cent a year between 1990 and 1995, leaving pensioners and the growing numbers of unemployed unable to make ends meet. Healthcare, starved of government funding, has deteriorated to the point of catastrophe. Infant mortality last year reached 20 per 1,000 live births, while the number of reported cases of tuberculosis more than doubled to 111,075 between 1990 and 1996. Average life expectancy for men is 59.

According to a Russian government survey, more than half the people in Khakassia, a region of southern Siberia, picked out as needing special assistance, are living below the official minimum standard. In one district, more than 530 children did not go to school last winter because of a lack of warm clothes.



Fears for Rome as new quake rocks Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

CENTRAL Italy was struck by an earthquake yesterday, the fourth in ten days. The tremor was felt in Rome, where seismologists said ancient monuments and art treasures could be at risk.

Maria Piro, a leading geologist, said much of Rome was built on an underground warren of tunnels, caves and catacombs, many of them unmapped. She said there was already serious subsidence in many parts of Rome, which would worsen if the epicentre moved closer.

The earthquake, registering 4.9 on the Richter scale, caused further damage to the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi, and sent people in nearby Perugia running into the streets. Two women in Marche were injured when they jumped out of windows. The earthquake, which like the previous three had its epicentre in Umbria, struck at 1.23am. "Ten seconds of terror" was the headline in yesterday's *Corriere della Sera*. The tremor coincided with the first torrential rains of the autumn, bringing further misery to thousands of people forced to sleep under canvas in prefabricated huts or in their cars.

Enzo Boschi, of the National Geophysics Institute, said it was significant that the earthquakes were not only powerful but were continuing unabated instead of dying away. "There are few precedents for this in Italy," he said.

Father Nicola Giandomenico, the bishop at the Assisi basilica, said the latest earthquake brought down masonry from the ceiling of the Upper Church, although the medieval frescoes that were damaged in the first earthquake on September 26 did not appear to have suffered further harm.

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Montenegro poll protest

Podgoritsa: Milo Djukanovic, the Montenegrin opposition leader, is to protest to the election commission about polling irregularities in Sunday's presidential ballot (James Pettifer writes).

In the poll, Momir Bulatovic, the incumbent President who backs Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, gained a higher than expected tally in the result that was a near dead heat. A run-off election will be held on October 19. Montenegro is a junior partner in the Yugoslav Federation dominated by Serbia.

Opposition claims of electoral manipulation are hard to verify. What is known is that the pro-Belgrade camp "encouraged" thousands of Montenegrin emigrants to return to vote. Some returned were Serbs with Montenegrin residence papers. Their participation triggered protests as Montenegrins feel powerless against Mr Milosevic.

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Gallery vows to expose fake Van Gogh art

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

AMID recent claims that many paintings by Vincent Van Gogh hanging in some of the world's most famous galleries are fakes, the Musée d'Orsay announced yesterday that it will investigate the collection of Dr Gachet, who looked after the painter during the weeks before his suicide in 1890.

The museum has promised to make public the results of the detailed study, which will include infra-red reflectography and ultra-violet authenticity tests, and will next year exhibit the paintings donated by the doctor and his children, including disputed works such as the *Portrait of Doctor Gachet* and the artist's only etching, *The Man with the Pipe*.

The decision comes a month after the French magazine *Connaissance des Arts* published an article claiming that the *Portrait of Doctor Gachet*, owned by the Musée d'Orsay, was a fake, was possibly painted by the doctor's son, Paul. Yesterday, Bernard Lantier, a French art expert, interviewed in *Le Figaro*, argued that *The Man with the Pipe*, the original tched copper plate of which is also part of the museum's Van Gogh collection, was another "appalling forgery".

The Van Gogh fake-ris began last autumn when scholars cited in an article in the *Art Newspaper* questioned the authenticity of up to 100 Van Gogh works.

The Musée d'Orsay has collection of 23 paintings by Van Gogh, including his masterpiece *Vincent's Room in Arles*, *Starry Night*, *Self Portrait* and *The Church at Auvers-sur-Oise*. The two latter works are also from the collection of Dr Gachet, but their authenticity has never been in doubt.

Anne Distel, the museum's curator, said yesterday that she was keeping in open mind. "It would be extremely imprudent to respond too quickly to this sort of controversial debate. We cannot prejudge things now," she said.

Although Van Gogh died destitute, his paintings were already fetching huge sums only 20 years after his death. As his work did not sell in his lifetime there is virtually no commercial proof of authorship. To make matters even more complicated, a number of works were abandoned or given away. Forgers' efforts were also undoubtedly helped by letters Van Gogh wrote to his brother, Theo, describing the progress of his work in great detail.

Senator in outburst at 'concealed donation videos'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE chairman of the Senate committee investigating alleged political fundraising abuses yesterday exploded in frustration at the White House for "concealing and concealing" in its disclosure of controversial videotapes of President Clinton's coffee mornings.

Fred Thompson, a Tennessee Republican, said: "The ultimate question is why, at this late date, after so many specific requests, are we just now getting these tapes?" In an impassioned half-hour chronicle of his rising frustration, he said: "It is clear the White House is trying to run out the clock on this committee."

The target of his fury was the White House's release this week of 44 tapes of coffee mornings which Republicans allege broke rules against fundraising on federal property. Mr Thompson said he had first asked the White House for details of these events in April, and had made further requests in August.

The revelation of the tapes' existence last week turned up the heat of the Senate's flagging hearings, which must finish by the end of the year. The White House says that the tapes are not incriminating, and simply show the President shaking hands with Democratic supporters.

Mr Thompson, a former film actor, called for the committee room lights to be dimmed, declaring "Let's roll that tape", as the images flickered onto giant screens in front of the packed committee room. Although the sound is

muffled and the images banal, in a town where the Watergate tapes which destroyed President Nixon still loom in the collective memory, the revelation of secret recordings provokes an inevitable frisson. The key questions the "coffee tapes" raise are whether the President knew these were fundraising events and whether they took place in residential or official parts of the White House.

Republicans on the committee also hit out at Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, for her refusal to appoint an independent prosecutor, calling for her to testify on Capitol Hill or for the President to replace her. In matching outbursts, marking the emphatic end of the committee's attempt at bipartisan harmony, Democrats accused Republicans of stonewalling over evidence.

They also defended Ms Reno, with Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, calling her "a woman of integrity". He added that she was in an impossible position: she would be accused of protecting the President if she did not appoint an independent counsel, and of being browbeaten by Republicans if she did.

The explosion from both sides eclipsed the scheduled star of the show, Harold Ickes, the former White House Deputy Chief of Staff, often described as "the ultimate insider" and the "man who really knows". There was not even time to swear in Mr Ickes, who watched in silence as committee members hurled accusations at each other.

The Senate prepared to vote yesterday on the McCain-Feingold Bill, the only proposal to reform campaign finance rules which stands a chance of becoming law. However, in a day of classic Senate manoeuvring, it appeared that Democrats and moderate Republicans had failed to assemble the necessary 60 votes to curtail a filibuster — the ability of any opponent to talk out the Bill. In an impromptu statement yesterday, Mr Clinton called for reform of the rules, attacking the "fundraising arms race which has overwhelmed and consumed both parties".



Brad Pitt starring in *Seven Years in Tibet*. Revelations about his character's Nazi past have prompted protests from China and Jews

Nazi taints Hollywood's Tibet crusade

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

LOOKING tough, blond and devilishly handsome, Brad Pitt will return to America's cinema screens tonight in a Tibetan mountaineering epic. The true narrative has prompted awkward revelations about his character's Nazi past and embroiled Hollywood producers in rows with China.

Seven Years in Tibet, filmed in the Argentine Andes, depicts a daring escape by Heinrich Harrer, an Austrian prisoner of war, during the Second World War to the Himalayan kingdom. He befriends the Dalai Lama and served as his tutor until 1952. To the consternation of Sony Pictures, the film studio, Herr Harrer, now 84, admitted in May to having voluntarily joined Hitler's *Sturmabteilung* (Stormtroopers) in 1933. Five years later he enlisted as a sports sergeant in the SS, received Himmler's permission to marry in 1938, and was once photographed being congratulated by Hitler for an Alpine climbing feat.

The confession led to urgent damage-limitation efforts by Jean-Jacques Annaud, the film's French director. "This is the story of a bastard who undergoes a drastic transformation into an incredible human being," he said. "What he did was accept the trend of his day... a social decision, not a political one." But Jewish and Chinese leaders have refused to let the



Heinrich Harrer, a self-confessed Nazi, with the Dalai Lama in Austria in 1992

issue die. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles, said that millions of fans of Brad Pitt would see the film and it would give neo-Nazis an opportunity "to try to whitewash crimes of the Nazi era".

The *People's Daily*, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, was gleeful by comparison. Noting that the film was based on Herr Harrer's autobiography, it said: "The Tibet craze set off by Hollywood is being used by a Nazi to advertise himself."

Seven Years in Tibet is being released barely three weeks before President Jiang Zemin of China makes his first state visit to the United States. It is the first of three major films this season either to idolise the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual and temporal leader, or demonise China, which invaded Tibet in 1949.

ing Buddhist and close friend of the Dalai Lama who is credited with starting Hollywood's love affair with the idea of a free Tibet.

Anticipating Chinese censure, MGM's president of worldwide marketing has been at pains to argue that *Red Corner* is not "in any way, shape or form a political movie... it's about a man caught in a legal system".

But Gere's plans belie this view. He has persuaded the studio to rush forward the film's release to the day President Jiang arrives in Washington, and will host a "stateless dinner" there on the evening the Chinese leader dines at the White House.

China has retaliated by producing films of its own on Tibet, including a \$1.7 million (£1 million) feature about an aggressive 19th-century British mission to Tibet and a documentary portraying the Dalai Lama as a collaborator with Beijing. Last year Chinese authorities also banned Hollywood notables including Pitt, Arnaud, Scorsese and Harrison Ford from visiting Tibet.

Chinese attempts to rewrite Hollywood's version of Tibetan history are likely to fail. The tragic story of the 1949 invasion — since then 6,000 monasteries have been looted and 1.2 million Tibetans killed, according to human rights sources — has proved as irresistible to film-makers as the Tibetan backdrop of soaring mountains and monks in saffron robes.

Meat firm swindler let ex-wife live off fat of the land

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

A JAPANESE meat-processing executive has been sentenced to five years in an American jail for what is thought to be the biggest series of embezzlements in US corporate history.

Yasuyoshi Kato pleaded guilty to

siphoning up to \$100 million (£62.5 million) over seven years from the corporate accounts of his food-processing firm — but he claimed that 90 per cent of the money went to satisfy his estranged wife's insatiable appetite for clothes, shoes, cars, homes, exotic pets, and money-losing businesses. Kato separated from Doris Ann Beiler-

Hotumi in 1991 but agreed to annual support payments of \$600,000, even though his salary was \$150,000 a year and his net worth \$200,000.

He obtained the money by writing company cheques to himself and then, as the company's chief financial officer, arranging business loans to cover them. Auditors scrambling to recover

assets after Kato and his wife applied in vain for bankruptcy protection have found that he owned 12 homes, including a beachfront condominium and a \$9 million ranch. While her husband appears to have escaped lightly — he faced up to 76 years' jail — Ms Beiler-Hotumi is being sued for \$95 million by his old employer.

Kennedy 'suspected wife of affair with Onassis'

New claims threaten to further tarnish a legend, writes Tom Rhodes

PRESIDENT Kennedy suspected that his wife, Jackie, was sleeping with Aristotle Onassis in revenge for his own philandering, according to a new book which claims Kennedy sometimes invited prostitutes to the White House.

"She's getting back at me 'cause I have so many," Mr Kennedy reportedly told a friend about his wife's alleged affair with her future husband. "I resent it. He's an ugly Greek."

In a *Vanity Fair* article, Seymour Hersh, the Pulitzer-prize winning investigative journalist, has disclosed details from *The Dark Side of Camelot*, his latest book to be published next month.

Prostitutes were allegedly procured for Kennedy by a senior aide who threatened them to ensure their silence. "The guy was really into some kinky stuff. The stuff that I have is purely salacious — you can fill books with it," Hersh, who gained fame for uncovering the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, told the magazine.

The book has already provoked much controversy in the United States. Papers said to prove that Kennedy made a \$1 million (£625,000) deal with Marilyn Monroe to conceal their alleged affair were deemed fake at the eleventh hour by Hersh.

Despite abandoning these documents, Hersh has still discovered much that appears to be worth telling. Numerous informants have spoken to him and claimed that organised crime played a decisive role in the 1960 presidential election. First, gangsters allegedly helped Kennedy to gain the nomination by using laundered cash during the West Virginia primary. Later the Mob apparently used the threat of force to bolster support for Kennedy in the election, not just in Illinois, as had been previously alleged, but in six other states as well. Later, the magazine reports, Robert Kennedy, then Attorney-General, "fixed the cases" of hoodlums who had helped in the election.

The book also claims that Bobby Kennedy was enthusiastic about using mobsters in plots against President Castro of Cuba. Far from opposing the plots by the CIA to use gangsters against Señor Castro, he is quoted by a senior intelligence official as saying: "You're using the wrong gangster. I'm going to show you how it's done."

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It couldn't have not happened



Kiffer Finzi felt it was essential to his sister-in-law's stability that he sleep with her. Interview by Sandra Parsons

What sort of man would sleep with his wife's sister, with his wife's knowledge, while she shared their home? That is what Kiffer Finzi did for 16 months between 1971 and 1972 while his sister-in-law, Jacqueline du Pré, was on the brink of a nervous breakdown.

It was a secret that Jacqueline's sister Hilary, Kiffer's wife, kept for 25 years but has now chosen to reveal in a memoir written with her brother, Piers du Pré. It is an intensely moving portrayal, but predictably, they have already been roundly condemned in print — by people who have never met them, nor read the full book, extracts from which are being serialised this week in *The Times*.

So great have been the inaccuracies written about them elsewhere that Kiffer has now decided to give his side of the story. It was not an easy decision for him because, contrary to what you might expect, he is not an arrogant man. Rather, he is a man without self-doubt, a security he attributes directly to his childhood and in particular to his mother, Joy Finzi, who had an extraordinary talent, he says, for "turning negative situations into positive ones".

And in a way, that is exactly what her son attempted to do when Jacqueline, a mass of despair, fled from her husband, Daniel Barenboim, and their demanding, jet-setting life of international recitals, and sought sanctuary with Hilary.

By then, Hilary and Kiffer had been married ten years. They lived in the tranquil village of Ashmansworth, Hampshire, in the sprawling farmhouse that is still their home today, with their four young children. Hilary's grandmother and Joy.

In contrast to Kiffer's secure childhood, Hilary, Jacqueline and Piers's was, although immensely loving, terribly sheltered. Their father, Derek, was "hypersensitive", says Kiffer, to the point where he eventually became so paralysed by fear of the outside world that he could not speak above a whisper.

Their mother, Iris, was also uncomfortable with what she perceived as the dangerous landscape outside the confines of the music world. In consequence, when Jacqueline dared to explore that landscape, it elated and terrified her.

"I think coming down to Ashmansworth was probably a very pathetic, sad way of Jackie trying to find something to hold on to," says Kiffer. "She was a very big personality and she needed a big space. But having broken out, having climbed over the fence, as it were, she found there was nothing to stand on."

"They all had an incredibly close childhood, but in a way it made progress difficult. Jackie was terribly vulnerable; they all are, because they have retained this sort of child-like directness. They couldn't tell a lie to save their faces. The ability to say one thing and think another is outside their ken."

It was because Hilary had managed to make a firm base for herself that Jacqueline came to her, he believes. But Hilary was still rather timorous, and Jacqueline, who was boisterous and earthy and who delighted in being ribald if she thought it would cause a reaction, needed someone who would not be overwhelmed by her. That someone was Kiffer.

In him she found the only person she had ever met who was as strong as her. Which is all very well, but why did he agree — at Jacqueline's insistent demand — to go to bed with her?

'Looking back, the sexual side is the least important'

"It was very much part of her whole personality. Jackie gave on the moment and she didn't consider rights and wrongs. If she had, she could never have played the Elgar the way she did. If she'd had to think about what the form was or what mode it was in, she wouldn't have been able to do it. Sexuality is very important for everybody and yet we all try to wrap it in cottonwool and try to make it go into channels. Jackie didn't do that."

"I'm not saying it was temptation, because Jackie wasn't one of the world's great beauties, although the photographs tried to make her so, they evened out her teeth and made them white instead of yellow and so on."

But her sexuality was just part of her personality and for a while we were absolutely eyeball to eyeball. The funny thing is, looking back on it now, from my point of view the sexual side is the least important side of it."

What was important, then? "Coming to grips with her personality. And in a way, what helped was that I didn't have any demands, to make of her. She was free to say what she liked and it wouldn't upset me, because I don't think I had any expectations. But she was a wonderful personality."

"She was terribly modest, she had no opinion of herself at all. She was deeply generous and very considerate. You'll say she wasn't considerate to Hilary, but that was only because that was outside her wavelength. There wasn't really a barrier, from her point of view, between her and Hilary, but it's terribly difficult to explain because it doesn't fit in with ordinary perceptions."



Kiffer Finzi: "I think in the long run it's been a good thing for Hilary. She was very dependent on me and it's made her slightly less so"

And neither, it has to be said, does Kiffer. He combines compassion with total honesty, and the effect is as disarming as it is unsettling.

He is 62 now and clearly a man at peace with himself. His vivid blue eyes radiate kindness yet he can sound, at times, quite brutal. His ability to speak the truth stems from his lack of fear: he does not mind that thousands of people now know intimate details about him, because he believes absolutely that

what he did was right. "It doesn't bother me at all what people think," he says, equally. "That sounds as though I don't care about anything, which isn't true. It's just that I believe what people think is their business."

He is aware that there are many who will assume he simply took advantage. "But there was such a lot of sorrow and sadness that came with it. It wasn't just a little bit of fun on the side. It couldn't have not happened. I had hoped to head

Jackie off, in a sense. To give her something — not me, I don't think I had any personal ambition in this — something that would help her."

But in the end what really helped for Jackie any sooner, I'd come to grips with Jackie's grief and despair. You couldn't help but feel compassion. If you look at it as bed-hopping, then that limited vision pulls the whole thing down. But anyone in that situation would have been, I think, really compelled. You would have had to have

would be helpful for her to see someone professionally."

Why had he not realised that sooner? "Because I was blind. And I don't think it would have worked for Jackie any sooner. I'd come to grips with Jackie's grief and despair. You couldn't help but feel compassion. If you look at it as bed-hopping, then that limited vision pulls the whole thing down. But anyone in that situation would have been, I think, really compelled. You would have had to have

been an absolute moron not to realise that here was someone at the extremities of despair."

"Funny enough, at the time it didn't feel wrong. There was one time when it all got too much for Hilary and she went out to weep, just as she had done when they were small at the Purley Festival and Jackie had been acclaimed as such a talent. That was Hilary's way of coping with it. She coped with it, and in coping, she developed muscle."

"Jackie didn't impose the stress purposefully, she was just being herself. She didn't feel guilty about what she was doing at all. Because to have guilt, you have got to think backwards or forwards and Jackie couldn't do that. She lived absolutely in the moment. She probably loved Hil more than anyone in the world, she was utterly devoted to her, just as Hil was to her. They were a very, very close pair."

The only time Jacqueline came near thinking backwards, as he puts it, was when she was ill and became apathetic towards her much-loved family. Kiffer thinks it was partly because she wanted to shock them still, but largely to do with the effects of multiple sclerosis. What he is certain of is that Iris never, as has been claimed, blamed Jacqueline's illness on the fact that she had married a Jew.

"It's bunkum. Jackie may have been confused and said it, but don't forget she always responded to people, she told them what she thought they wanted to hear. And she could be cruelly vituperative. She told me, for instance, that she knew she should never have married Danny [Barenboim]; she said she knew she was doing the wrong thing at the wedding ceremony. She was terribly vindictive about him. But what I say to that is, look at the photographs of them together. I think you have to believe what you see and not what people say."

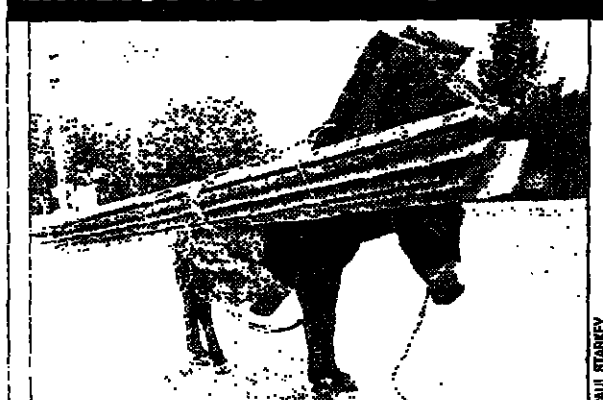
For those who wonder about his own marriage, he issues the same invitation: "Just look at us." He never felt he was betraying Hilary. "It wouldn't have occurred to me to leave her. It was just absolutely essential at that point to do this. I don't think Jackie would ever have gone to a psychologist if I hadn't done that. Although as it turned out, it was all futile. But really I think Jackie paid Hilary a tremendous compliment, because when she was desperately looking for someone to latch on to she chose Hil. And Jackie would have done exactly the same for Hilary. I don't think they felt jealousy in that way, either of them."

Their marriage, he thinks, is stronger as a result. "I think in the long run it's been a good thing for Hilary. She was very dependent on me and it's made her slightly less so. And it's cured her of a lot of the basic du Pré fears she had: the fear of the unknown, the fear of what people are thinking of you, the general feeling of threat."

Did he ever feel guilty? "Not really, no. I was always utterly honest. It's terribly difficult, trying to judge it all again, when there was such terrible despair. But I don't think, faced with that despair, one could ever have considered doing anything else."

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'I was witness to my sister's crucifixion'

In Day Four of the du Pré memoir, Hilary du Pré on Jackie's decline

I don't know how Jackie became reconciled with Danny [Barenboim, the conductor and her husband] but I can only assume that either her confusion subsided or she was better able to cope with it. A month before her 27th birthday, an unscheduled recording session triggered their musical communication again. It was her last visit to a recording studio.

In July they went to Tel Aviv, and in September they played with Pinchas Zukerman at the Royal Festival Hall. Some reviewers remarked that "Miss du Pré is back in great form", although others were less enthusiastic.

Once again, we started to see less and less of her, as she swung back into the vortex of Danny's life: concerts, late-night meals, travelling — all the things she had said she couldn't cope with. I wondered how long it would last.

Early in January 1973, Jackie performed in Toronto. The Canadian press was not ecstatic: this was "good" du Pré but not "exceptional". By the 25th she was back in New York for a chamber concert with Danny. The critics complained of her self-indulgent playing, her rasping tone and that she often missed notes. Jackie had never before had reviews like these.

She had been noticing for some time that her hands were not responding as they should. She constantly felt as

though they hadn't warmed up properly. She consulted various doctors who were anything but helpful.

Her official comeback concert at the Royal Festival Hall had been arranged for February 8. She was to play the Elgar Concerto, conducted by Zubin Mehta. The press announced that she was returning "after a long illness".

As the orchestra took their places I felt apprehensive. The world was out in force to hear Jackie and I realised, for the first time, I didn't feel secure about her.

Jackie appeared, her cello held high in front of her and, as she ran up the steps on to the platform, the audience burst into frenzied applause. She looked happy and relaxed as she beamed at the crowd. There was absolute silence as she slipped into her deep concentration. Then, with a characteristic backward flip of her head, she swung the bow across the strings for the opening chords. The sound rose from the cello and swept across the hall, penetrating every soul.

But the first two leaps were much slower than usual: the orchestra was unprepared and immediately sped ahead of her. I froze. Zubin crouched, his arms braced as he tried to pull the orchestra back. There was an uneasy balance between the orchestra and Jackie as



Daniel Barenboim and Jacqueline du Pré: an unscheduled recording session triggered their musical communication again

they continued out of stride with each other for a few awkward notes. That commanding voice, which had once spoken so directly to my heart, and had ruled my emotions with such power, was now floundering.

The audience hardly made a sound at the end of the first movement. I thought I would snap with the tension.

At first I couldn't identify my unease but gradually I realised that Jackie was telling us something that was too much for us to understand or bear. There had always been hope in this music and in her playing but now all the joy had gone. I was witnessing a crucifixion. In a solemn and final reckoning, all I could hear was my sister's farewell.

That night's performance was a heavy burden. The message was unmistakable. After the final sforzando chord, Zubin's arms flopped to his side and the audience rose to its feet, like a tidal wave. I found myself swept onto my feet, too, and pushed

forward. Jackie's face broke into her huge smile and she stood with her: adoring, but utterly uncomprehending audience at her feet.

Not long afterwards, Kiffer and I were invited to lunch with Jackie. She had prepared a meal and we tucked into bowls of steaming soup.

"Jackie, this is delicious," I said. "One of your best."

"Humm, I love it," Kiffer enthused. "But it would be even more loveable with salt."

Jackie picked up the salt-cellar and tried to pass it across the table, but her arm just bounced in mid-air. "He's over there, Jacks," I joked, but very quickly realised, from her frightened face, that she was not playing around.

"I can't, Hil. It won't go. We were stunned into an awful silence."

Meanwhile, the Yom Kippur War had started and Danny had gone to Israel to play to the troops. On October 10, she told me that she had to

go into hospital. On October 16, multiple sclerosis was finally diagnosed.

Jackie's immediate reaction was to telephone Danny but not to tell him the truth. Danny, however, sensed something was wrong, and was soon at her bedside. She was delighted that he had come home, especially knowing that he had put her first.

© Hilary and Piers du Pré 1997

Extracted from *A Genius & A Family*, by Hilary and Piers du Pré, published by Chatto & Windus at £16.99. Readers seeking a copy for £14.99 by calling Times Bookshop on 0900 010000.

'I'm going to die said Jackie, and they say I'm going to go mad'

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Royal revelations for adults only

Choreographer David Bintley tells **Allen Robertson** the grisly truths behind *Edward II*, his new staging for Birmingham Royal Ballet

Today's ballet-going public is hungry for full-length spectacle. But with so few choreographers capable of satisfying that hunger, companies are constantly being forced to fall back on the half-dozen gold-plated titles from the late 19th century. Not so Birmingham Royal Ballet.

"We will always have the classics around," says David Bintley, the company's artistic director. "We need them to keep remembering where we came from, but that doesn't mean we should be trying to copy them. Anyway, you can't write better ballet music or finer divertissement choreography than those Tchaikovsky ballets. They were a kind of apotheosis, and then it was finished. It took nearly 50 years before Prokofiev came along with *Romeo and Juliet* and the fashion for full-length ballets got under way again."

Bintley knows whereof he speaks. At 40, he has already created as many full-length ballets as Kenneth MacMillan did during his entire career. But just because Bintley has a knack for staging danced stories, it does not follow that he is content with a predictable tried-and-true formula. "I'm not trying to be 'fashionable'. What I am trying to do is tell complex narratives through the body, to make the movement and the actual narrative do the work rather than relying on scenery and other stuff. I think that's evident in *Edward II*."

Tomorrow night's performance of *Edward II* is a

British premiere. Bintley created it in 1995 for the Stuttgart Ballet. He had suggested his dance treatment of Christopher Marlowe's tragedy to Stuttgart with some trepidation. In the event, it proved a huge success, even though the story was unfamiliar to German audiences.

The ballet tells of the married yet openly homosexual 14th-century English monarch who paid for his peccadilloes with his life when Isabella, his queen, joined forces with his barons to spearhead a rebellion which culminated in Edward's assassination. Billed in the advertisements as "Bintley's bloody ballet", it carries a warning that it is not suitable for children. This is an adult approach to storytelling that corrodes the sugar-coated gentility of classical ballet with a gutsy, panoramic sweep of guilt and betrayal. "It is filled with many real feelings," says Wolfgang Stollwitzer, who dances Edward. "Of course it has some brutal moments, but that's life."

A gory parable for corruption in any age, *Edward II* charts the decline and fall of a flawed autocrat. But Bintley does not serve up simplistic, black and white choices. Ironically, the powers which bring Edward tumbling are as vile and even more self-serving than he is.

Bintley, like MacMillan before him, believes ballet to be capable of engaging grown-up minds and grappling with serious themes. "I'm not pulling any punches," he says. "Besides, you don't need to sensationalise an already sensational story. There's nothing in this ballet that didn't happen in history."

Bintley commissioned the English composer John McCabe, a writer whose career was in something of an eclipse. "In fact," Bintley says, "when someone first told me that John might like to work with me, I said, 'But he's dead, isn't he?' It's a scandal of British music that I hadn't heard a word about him in ten years. I had a lot of his early stuff, *Chagall Windows* and things like that, which were recorded when he was young and famous. But then they completely forgot about him."

"Let's be a delightful person, very quiet, gentle, unassuming. His music is anything but. It's taut, tight and dangerous. He writes terrific brass music and his rhythms are fantastic. "We're just about to start work on a new piece and, no, beyond the fact that it's for the year 2000, I'm not saying anything. It will be my next and possibly my last big, full-evening ballet. After that I'll be wiped out for a few years." With two or three years of

one's life invested in a full-length work, it is doubly depressing when something doesn't come right. Even though he is not one to dwell on the past, Bintley's voice takes on an edge when he talks about *Cyano*, his 1991 flop for Covent Garden.

He admits to being "devastated" by the failure. "You've spent £350,000 and it's all gone for nothing and it's all your fault," he says. "Still, it seems to me that with an outlay like that it wasn't right to just ditch it. Ninette de Valois always said that the work doesn't finish on opening night. Once I saw it in front of an audience I knew what was wrong. I could have turned it round."

He is, he says, "the sort of person who is happy to go on and do something else. But it was a shame. It made me want to run away and hide for six months and pretend that I didn't do it — which is essentially what I did."

Bintley has choreographed a further three full-evening works since *Cyano*. There has also been a clutch of one-act ballets and he has recently signed a second three-year contract with BRB. "I'm happy in every respect so, of course, I accepted a second three years."

"Besides," he adds, "it takes you longer than just one three-year term to completely ruin everything."

Edward II opens tomorrow night at the Birmingham Hippodrome (0121-622 7486)



Head in hands: Edward (Wolfgang Stollwitzer) in David Bintley's saga of gay love and gore

Bawdy nuns on the run

One or two disapproving voices greeted Jérôme Savary's ribald staging of Rossini's final comedy when it opened at Glyndebourne in midsummer. But Savary, France's most experienced farceur, knows just how to please his public and *Ory* turned into the popular success of the season. It was a natural to open the autumn programme for Glyndebourne's touring arm.

Under Christopher Colwell's new direction, one or two of the more raucous edges have been softened. He treads the path of indelicacy more delicately as *Ory* tries to undermine the chaste life of the Countess Adèle in her French château. Barry Banks is now the Count, a born loser in the seduction stakes despite

OPERA

Ory and the Countess

a halo which lights up at crucial moments. As the stage darkens in Act 1 over Ezio Toffolutti's tawny landscape, more Italian than French out of deference to Rossini, there is a feeling that *Ory* may, too, be in his sunset years as a wandering Casanova. The role suits Banks's light, high-lying tenor very neatly and there is a nice air of self-deprecation about the performance. "Le terrible Comte Ory?" Never. Just an old chancer prone to gaffes.

Anna Maria Panzarella as the haughty Countess may lack the class of her predecessor, Annick Massis. But she spins a pretty silvery thread of notes and is a soprano moving from strength to strength. The Act II duet, the nearest *Ory* gets to breaking down the defences of Castle Adèle, was a vocal delight.

Colwell ducks none of Savary's inventive bawdry in this second act. *Ory's* followers in their holy habits are the guests from hell as they drink Adèle's castle dry, pausing for the odd prayer when required. Only Whoopi Goldberg is missing among these nuns on the run, sturdily led by Christopher Maltman, a winner at this year's Cardiff Singer of the World jamboree.

Imelda Drummond's personable page Isolier comes into "his" own during the final trio of mistaken identity, where Savary's three-in-a-bed solution leaps straight from the pages of the *News of the World* — or a saucy old French farce.

There is room for improvement from both the Governor and the Ragone. And Ivor Bolton could make his orchestra fazz more. But Rossinians and lovers of farce should both be well pleased as *Ory* sets off on its autumn pilgrimage across the regions.

JOHN HIGGINS

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SHI-NING LIU

and pas de trois in *Swan Lake*, the *Corsaire* pas de deux, and so on.

Worst moment: Getting seriously lost in his first summer here. "I was supposed to take the train to a town to stay with a family to improve my English." Instead he arrived at midnight in a similar-sounding town hundreds of miles away. Fortunately kind passers-by took pity on him and drove him through the night to the right destination.

How does he find life in the Royal Ballet? "In Liaoning getting roles was easy, but here the standard is a lot tougher. So I have had to start from the bottom and work up gradually. I think



that is better. I feel that is how you grow."

His style? All the jump roles — the Bronze Idol in *La Bayadère*, the mandolin dance in *Romeo and Juliet*.

In the next days you can catch him in the *Giselle* pas de six and the Gold variation and Bluebird pas de deux in *The Sleeping Beauty*. He needs to tidy up the wildness of his finishes, but he has a good line and smooth sinuous flow, thanks to the Russian basis of his original training — or to his Chinese astrological sign (he was born in the Year of the Tiger).

The future: "Of course I don't want to be just jumping around all my life; of course I would like to do more dramatic roles. But then every dancer wants that. It depends on what the Royal Ballet decides." In the meantime he is happy to work and learn and to tour abroad with the company — America, Turkey, Japan. The world has suddenly become a small and familiar place.

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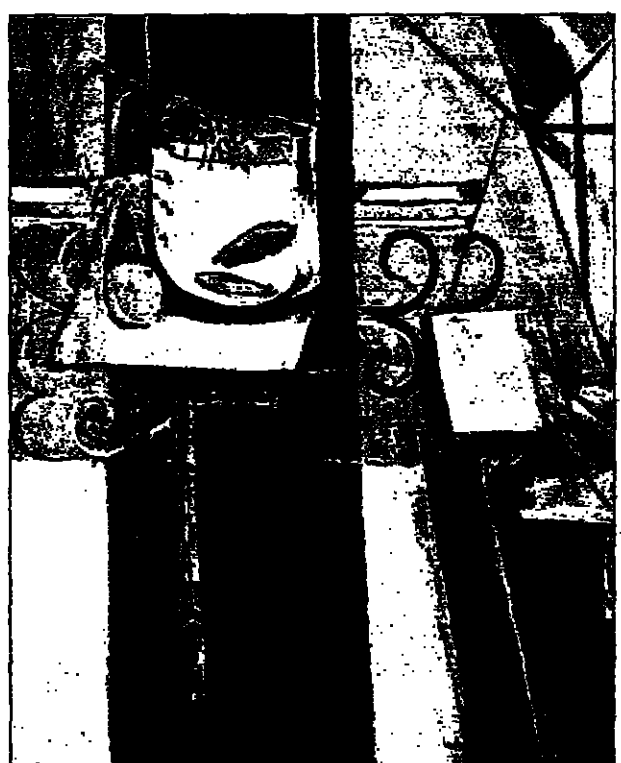
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How did he become a great British hope? He comes from Liaoning province, northwest of Beijing. After winning a prize at the Prix de Lausanne competition, he was offered a scholarship to the Royal Ballet School in 1992, and was invited into the Royal Ballet company six months later.

How did he start? "My family was very poor and my mother, who loved dancing, was sick and could not look after me. So when I was nine they decided to apply to the professional ballet school of Liaoning, because there I would be housed and fed and trained. After five years I joined the province's ballet company, where I was soon promoted to principal. He did the staple solo roles of the classical repertoire: the Jester



TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's still lifes

■ HENRI MATISSE: *Goldfish and Palette*, 1914.

SUSPENDED in a bowl of snowy water, the glowing goldfish could hardly look more serene. Yellow fruit nestles beside the glass, and plant leaves curve over its sides. But Matisse's interior is not as reassuring as it may initially appear. Space has been flattened and made taut, so that the table supporting the bowl looks strangely fragile. The sky beyond the balcony seems impenetrable, and the twisted ironwork scrolls begin to look oppressive.

Matisse adds to the tension by making many of his defining contours skeletal, and scratching thin lines in the wet paint with the end of his brush. The preponderance of black has a funeral air, suggesting that Matisse's mood was affected by events outside his window. The First World War broke out in 1914, and most of the artist's work remained sombre until the Armistice arrived in 1918.

□ *Objects of Desire*, sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, opens at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242) tomorrow

TOMORROW: Man Ray's Gift

A spark of greatness

LONDON CONCERTS

the baton of *Maryna Brattins*.

An hour later in the Festival Hall, the Philharmonia and Peter Donohoe, conducted by Vasily Shtaisky, gave an equally committed performance of MacMillan's 1990 piano concerto, *The Berserker*. This was a sudden jolt from the life-giving energy of the creation to the misdirected energy of the creature: the images of Viking warriors and Glasgow Celtic supporters fused in MacMillan's imagination to inspire an artful toccata of terror.

In the BBC Symphony Orchestra's tripartite concert, which ended with Andrew Davis conducting Schoenberg's *Verklärte Nacht*, some little-performed music by his two pupils, Berg and Webern, epitomised the graphic differences between these *Three of a Kind*.

Here was Webern, the century's first minimalist, revealing his scholarly love of Renaissance polyphony, while Berg was heard at his most volatile.

It was Berg's Chamber Concerto for piano, violin and 13 wind instruments which con-

verted Pierre Boulez to his music. Three movements played out a testing game of cryptic numerical and cypher-glosses; although, in this performance, with Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano, and Augustin Dumay, violin, as the urbane yet passionate soloists, it was very much the spirit of the divertimento which was recreated in Berg's exuberant celebration of Schoenberg's 50th birthday.

After a welcome interval, the ear and spirit was ready for Webern: his Op 29, 30 and 31, written in 1939, 1940 and 1941 and consisting of two cantatas, flanking the *Variations for Orchestra*. Both cantatas, for choir (BBC Singers, conducted by Simon Joly), soloists (Sarah Leonard, soprano and Stephen Varcoe, baritone) and orchestra, set the ecstatically spiritual verse of Hildegard of Bingen. Leonard's light, springing inflection of Webern's minutely poised word-setting created a spinning free-fall, while her assured declamation in the final affirmation of love at the end of the second cantata was an eloquent foil for the recurring rays of four-part choral harmony which catch and contain Webern's dancing notes of instrumental life.

HILARY FINCH

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Alan Coren



When The People's War breaks out, George, you must soldier on without me

I turn my head a few degrees leftwards from the screen on which I have just written the words describing what I am now doing, my eyes arrive at a shelf bearing a few framed photographs of my family at war. Not, let me quickly type, at war with one another: these are not candid snaps of domestic rows, my relatives are not at one another's throats, there is no cockery flying about.

What they are at war with is Germany. I can't, of course, see this in the photographs, my family is not shooting anyone, they are not dropping bombs, nobody is wiping a bayonet: what they are doing is taking a break from the war to smile at the camera. They are all in uniform: here is my father, no older than my son, leaning against a hut at RAF Strathfield; here is a studio group of his brothers Les (Eighth Army) and Gus (Royal Ulster Rifles), with his sisters Ann (ATS) and Sadie (Land Army); and here, next to them, is my mother's brother Sid (Middlesex Regiment), with a big bandage around the top of his head and a big grin across the bottom of it, the former a testament to his recently having been at Dunkirk, the latter a testament to his even more recently having got back from it. So, can you guess what I am wondering, half a century on? I am wondering how my Auntie Ann would have fared in a rear turret over the Ruhr, and how my Auntie Sadie would have looked with shrapnel in her forehead.

I am wondering this because George Robertson has invited me. To the Ministry of Defence, as you, too, will have read in Monday's *Times*, is about to ask the British public whether it wants women to fight in the front line, and as a member of that public I cannot give the Defence Secretary a straight answer until I am able to come to terms with the notion of my aunts, instead of decoding trucks or planning runner beans, parachuting into Ansbach, firing their Sten guns from the hip.

And since George is unlikely ever to get a straight answer from me on this, let me instead put him a straight question: is this unprecedented soliciting of the public's tactical opinion to be taken as a pointer to the future course of Britain's military policy? Am I, that is, to assume that new Labour's zest for referendum is soon to embrace all aspects of the defence of the realm? Because if it is as short a step as it seems from choosing the sort of Armed Forces we want to choosing what we should want them to do when we've got them, then I have a considerable amount of bawling-up to do.

We all have: we shall have to fill our bookshelves with *Jane's Fighting This and That*, we shall have to obtain highly detailed maps of every country in the world, and highly detailed charts of every sea, we shall have to clear out our lofts to make room for regiments of toy soldiers — of both sexes — and model tanks and guns and ships and missiles and all the deployable rest; we shall, in short, have to become tactical and strategic experts, because we are not talking here about such trifles as single currencies or Welsh assemblies or foxhunting, we are talking about far more fraught and complex referential decisions than those, and ones to be taken, moreover, far more snappily — as soon as, say, the newflash breaks into *EastEnders* to inform us that the SS *Belgrano* Nuevo has just been sighted off Clacton, please ring 0345 2222 if you want to sink it, 0345 3333 if you want to wave to it, all calls charged at standard rate, or that Saddam Hussein has landed at Inverness and is marching on Prestonpans at the head of the Republican Guard, if you feel Britain should go nuclear on this one, please e-mail as soon as possible to: armageddon@trident.uk.

On reflection, George, I think not. You yourself must be a brave little soldier, and defend the realm without my input. Oh, I am happy enough with the concept of The People's Party, I am more than happy with its declared vision of The People's Country, I am even ready to follow it into The People's Century, but it is seeking my endorsement of The People's Army, it will seek in vain. Because I rather fancy that if you wish to keep the nation safe for democracy, then you have to recognise when to keep it safe from it.



Don't panic, Mr Hague

The Tories should stop pretending to be a Dad's Army — Blair's victory was a confidence trick played by our constitution

Never was so much nonsense uttered about British politics as since the last election. Drivel pours from every mouth and pen. This week it concerns the fate of the Conservative Party. "Why can't it apologise?" scream the headlines. "Sort out this mess," "Finished for a generation... bankrupt, weak, leaderless." As for poor William Hague, Tory MPs used to take two years to rubbish the person they elect as their leader. They now take two months. Disloyalty has become a Tory habit of mind, a scratching fever brought on by the Tory press.

The May election is still misread. It was a huge confidence trick played on the electorate by the British constitution. The lowest turnout since the war, and a lukewarm vote for new Labour, was miraculously turned into a sensation. The cardinal fact was that (on MORI figures) some two and a half million Tories stayed at home, probably for no other reason than that they felt 18 years was enough.

The 1997 election would have been lost by any ruler, by Margaret Thatcher, Winston Churchill, the Duke of Wellington, Boadicea. The electorate was bored. It was finished with the Tories. A stay of execution had been granted in 1992, with a new leader and an untrusting Labour one. But 18 years was the limit. No other reason need be sought for defeat. The Government could have been the finest in history, the policies rock solid, the campaign the best. None of this mattered. Boredom was a sufficient condition. Nothing else was necessary.

Democracy speaks through elections. Its voice is expressed not in parliamentary seats but in poll shares. What is significant about May 1 was not that the Tory vote fell off the end of the calendar. What was remarkable was that Labour's showing was weak. The party had a new leader, new organisation, new branding and "18 years" all on its side. Yet still it could not persuade a majority to support it in the polling booths.

Labour scored a modest 13.5 million votes, or 43.2 per cent of those cast in the most apathetic of British general elections. This was fewer than John Major won in 1992, and only 1.3 points higher in poll share. Tony Blair's "sensation" was a weaker mandate than Labour secured on taking power in 1945 (47.8 per cent) and 1964 (44.1 per cent) and smaller than the Tories in 1970 (46.4 per cent)

and 1979 (43.9 per cent). To portray this as the most devastating result, variously since the last war, the advent of universal suffrage, or the Battle of Hastings (all of which have been written), is plain silly. It indicates the Westminster-centrism of British politics.

Labour attended the field of battle splendidly caparisoned. But it won the day not by weight of numbers but because its enemy was too weary to fight. The spoils that were duly paraded in Parliament gave a distorted picture of the battle. They reflected not the scale of popular victory but the vagaries of the constitution and the tactical genius of Labour's election team in targeting marginal seats.

A halfhearted public endorsement of new Labour was converted into an overwhelming Commons majority by mathematical eccentricity.

First-past-the-post may deliver ministers of the Crown a disciplined majority. But facts are facts. I shudder when pundits regularly refer to Labour's parliamentary strength as if it were the same thing as its popular support. This is to treat voters as mere adjuncts to democracy, as an idiot mob, allowed to give a crude thumbs up or thumb down and then be buried from sight. Only when carried up to Westminster, to be mediated, interpreted and sanitised by Parliament and the media, are the votes of the electorate rendered respectable.

I regard the long-term lesson of May as grimmer for Labour than for the Tories. In April 1992 about 14 million people voted Tory, as they had done throughout the Thatcher years. That vote temporarily vaporised. Meanwhile everyone who had ever been inclined to vote Labour must have done so, young and old, firm or floating. Even then the party could muster only 43.2 per cent of a low turnout. It is hard to believe that Mr Blair can increase this vote from the pool of (largely Tory) abstainers next

time. Even if he keeps every one who voted for him, his poll share must shrink as and when turnout rises.

Labour is now enjoying a high approval rating in opinion polls. This reflects a remarkably polished and confident summer honeymoon. But new governments tend to be popular immediately after elections. They rarely hold that popularity. The Tories lost poll share throughout their 18 years. Mr Blair, in last week's speech, went out of his way to warn his party that the Tories were "sleeping not dead". He knows how vulnerable is his popular base and how meaningless the size of his Commons majority.

Simon Jenkins

Honeymoons never last. Already darkening Mr Blair's horizon are struggles over public spending and Europe. He will require every ounce of the party discipline now so salubrious both inside and outside the Commons. To adapt Tolstoy, all happy Commons majorities resemble one another, but each unhappy majority is unhappy in its own way. The bigger the majority, the bigger the potential for unhappiness. Mr Blair is right to be a Prime Minister in a hurry. He has another election to win and it will not be easy.

So is the real lesson of May as comforting for the Tories as it should be disconcerting for Labour? My short answer is, yes. If May was an "18-years" aberration, the party need only recover the form it showed in four previous elections to be in with a good chance of winning. With 18 years out of the way, that is not incontestable. I see no reason why the 14 million Tories of 1992 should not be at least 13 million again in 2002. These are voters who stayed solid through the torments of Margaret Thatcher's spending cuts and Euro-spliffs, who were loyal equally in 1983, 1987 and 1992. Even in May most of the defectors abstained or voted Liberal Democrat rather than Labour. These

people also traditionally welcome a new party leader. Macmillan, Thatcher and Major all rescued the Tories from despair and won their first elections. It would be odd if so loyal an electoral force were not prepared to give Mr Hague the benefit of the doubt.

If the Labour Party had not existed in the 1980s, nobody would have bothered to reinvent it. In the event it came near to being supplanted by the Alliance. There are Communist, Socialist, Liberal, Radical and Social Democrat parties across Europe, wandering on and off the political stage. But there is always a Conservative Party. The Tories would certainly need inventing if they did not exist. Conservatism is an essential contour on the democratic map. To talk of it being in "terminal decline" is yet more illiteracy.

British Conservatism won the great argument of postwar Britain. It redefined the public and the private sectors of the political economy, not just nationally but globally. That victory was crushing and is lasting. Labour had to steal almost all its clothes from the Tories and, apart from constitutional reform, has found precious few of its own. Even at the last election, the Tory manifesto had an intellectual substance, lacking from Labour's.

Politics in Britain remains on the agenda set out by Margaret Thatcher and her Cabinet in the course of the 1980s. From defence and foreign affairs to the priorities of public spending, from welfare reform to standards in health and education, Mr Blair can only say, me too. Over the next three years, Thatcherism must be updated. There is no alternative. But the updating will take place under a Labour Government increasingly besieged by its supporters and interest groups. Even the present Conservative Party cannot let slip the electoral plums this should drop into its lap.

Unlike Labour, the Tories need only to rally their loyal vote. They need to sit tight and keep their heads. They can watch the make-up fade, crack and fall from the face of new Labour. A harvest of local government victories is in the offing. Conservatism can rebuild its local strength, hold its tea parties, auction its gongs, save money and wait. Labour strategists know this. The Tories apparently do not. Having misread last May, they are doing the only thing they always do well, which is fight one another and panic.

Versed in heart and mind

It's good to muse, insists Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Tomorrow is National Poetry Day. Let the Muses muster. If not, they will probably be marshalled into order anyway. William Sieghart, founder of our annual rhyme-fest, is assembling his armies. His plan is to storm our streets with cultural commandos. "Most people still think of poetry as a dusty back-of-the-bookshop, slim-volume minority sport," Mr Sieghart wrote in the last edition of *Prospect*. Not any more, it seems. Poetry should be everywhere.

It already is — in a subliminal sort of way. Poetry is integral to the modern environment: from the lyrics of pop songs to the rappers' rhythms, from greetings-card ditties to advertising jingles. But the aim of National Poetry Day is to raise awareness and, hopefully, to introduce people to some more deserving verse.

Not since William Wordsworth's "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" have passions about poetry run so high — or so the publicity would have us believe. As Mr Sieghart lets his crusaders loose on our society, we will have spondee in supermarkets and anapaests in pubs, stanzas in train stations and quatrains in classrooms. And while commuters, no doubt, curse their traffic jams in couplets and bond-dealers bargain in blank verse, our national broadcasting stations will mark the cultural coup with poetry played between programmes like martial music.

Much of the population will be indifferent to this: just as most of us are indifferent to National Prime Day or National Taxi Driver's Day. Poetry has always been the preoccupation of a minority. It is largely a private pastime. Although a recent survey suggests that more than half the population have written a poem in adulthood, the results are reserved for the writer's eyes only. That is probably just as well.

Writing poetry has a certain therapeutic value. It can help people to confront and express their most solemn ideas and heartfelt passions — and a great deal more cheaply than a session with a shrink. But most will acknowledge their attempts do little more than take them from bad to verse. True poetry, as T.S. Eliot warned us, is not simply "a turning loose of emotion".

This is not to say that writing poetry should be discouraged. It is an exercise in elegance and precision of expression. "The best words in the best order." Poetic composition is a highly skilled and technical craft. But it is precisely because of this that dabblers are best advised to keep their efforts well closeted. After all, if you have ever made the acquaintance of an amateur poetaster, you will probably know that other people's poems are like other people's dreams: almost always tedious and often embarrassing.

The enjoyment of poetry does not depend on producing it. This year National Poetry Day focuses on encouraging the consumer. Its theme, "By Heart", is designed to encourage individuals to commit a poem to memory. To do this is to arm oneself with one of our richest cultural resources.

Memorising and reciting poetry is at least as old as Homer. It was integral to the ancient oral traditions of our culture. But learning verse by heart has faded out of educational fashion in the postwar years — along with the ink monitors and miniature milk bottles. Instead, we rely on computer databases. Why bother to learn a poem, by rote when, at the click of a few keys, you can access every work in the canon on screen? The brain has been replaced by the electronic retrieval system.

Yesterday Tony Blair enlisted the support of Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft, for a £100 million scheme designed to link every school in Britain up to the Internet. This National Grid for Learning initiative will disseminate educational material all over the country. But we should be wary of assuming that it will automatically improve the standards in our schools. The spread of information technology could present a new threat to our thinking.

Information is not the same as wisdom. Data does not become knowledge until it has been downloaded into the brain, until facts and figures have been processed and transformed by the human mind, and before the human mind has, in its turn, been moulded and changed by that which it has absorbed.

A computer knows nothing; it merely stores information. It is the memory which enables us to use knowledge. Though by the year 2002 — if all runs according to Blair's plan — any schoolchild will be able to summon on to screen any poem from the English literary canon, this will be of less educational value than the memorising of a handful of these works.

Our personalities are shaped by what we know. Surely then, it is sensible to include somewhere in the repertoire of our knowledge, a few of the deepest and most eloquently expressed thoughts in the English language. A poem learnt is a poem retained for future use, perhaps for a lifetime. Its rhythms and cadences remain in the mind, informing and enriching everyday language. Its sentiments linger to provide solace or support. Its philosophical framework provides comment or criticism on the world as it changes.

A poem echoes in the whispering gallery of the imagination. It infuses and feeds our inner sanctum. National Poetry Day may play itself out in the public arena, but any lasting effects will take place in the quiet solitude of this most private of realms.

Glover's off

HE has become one of the most vilified men in Britain. And this could be his chance to bite back. Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner, is to be the subject of a biography by Stephen Glover, the scorching *Spectator* columnist and former newspaper editor. With his agent, Gillon Aitken, Glover has been plotting the book for several months. "I met Mr Al Fayed ten years ago and thought he was both comic and coarse," says Glover, probably not advancing his campaign to win co-operation for the book. "I had the idea ages ago and Gillon's very keen. I haven't spoken to Mr Al Fayed yet, but I'm hoping that he'll give interviews and let me do the authorised version."

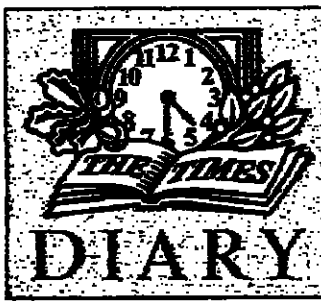
Al Fayed does not enjoy media attention. After a brief study last year, *Vanity Fair* became the subject of a substantial libel action. "Mr Al Fayed knows nothing about this," says his pugnacious spokesman, Michael Cole, who has spent much of the last few months cluttering the letters columns of our national press. "People can do as they wish, sadly we can't stop them. I only hope that it recognises the part Mr Al Fayed has played in bringing down the Conservative Government and cleaning up British politics." I am sure he will write of little else.

● **THAT wild-haired advocate** Anthony Scrivener has received much attention in the *Dame Shirley Porter* case. Not all of it welcome. "I saw the courtroom sketches on the news," says his wife, one Ying Hui Tan. "He looked like Worzel Gummidge. I sent him straight to the barber."

Pot luck

ONE OF the most convenient genus lavatories between Buckingham Palace and Piccadilly is about to allow women onto the premises. The Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall — once considered a bastion of plus-four-wearing buffers — has asked its members to decide on whether females should be granted equal membership.

A postal vote is under way. Says the club: "We have recognised changes in society. And motoring is now as big a subject to women as it is to men." Fine, but can they drive?



● **HURRAH, no more fish fingers.** Visitors to the Worcester home of the Earl of Coventry have noted the improved fare. The reason? His cook, Mrs Elizabeth Callaghan, has been sent on a cooking course in Bath. "We got our heads together and thought, why not get some more good ideas?" says the much married earl. "It was not so much back to basics as allowing her ideas to evolve," he adds delicately.

Coarse course

THERE will be a sore ego in Tinseltown after the publication of Joan Collins's memoir, *Second Act* — Madonna's Ms Collins, who affects not to have heard of the chanteuse, sat next to her at dinner. She was underwhelmed. "She proceeded to blow large pink bubblegum through dinner,"

she writes. "Madonna raised her plate and put her nose as close as possible to the contents. Then she stuck out her tongue to prod the food and sniffed again." They seem made for each other.

House rules

THOSE Lotharios in the Tory Reform Group (president: Ken Clarke) have fallen foul of Blackpool boarding house morality. The landlord of their guesthouse — like Clarke, they are slumming it — has ticked them off after spotting a



"I'm all for kids learning the three Rs — Ram, Rom and Algorithms"

group of excitable women being smuggled in after hours.

"It's not that sort of place," the landlord thundered. "It was entirely innocent," protests a One Nation type. "This is the last thing we are usually accused of." I should point out that Mr Clarke spent the night at his digs, with only his delightful wife, Gillian, for entertainment.

● **I AM delighted to hear that the charming Sandy Henney, aide to the Prince of Wales, has taken to wearing a silver ankle bracelet — fashioned from paperclips by colleagues.** This is in defiance of my report that she had a weakness for gold bracelets. "I'm a Cockney and proud," she says. "I may be sacked tomorrow but I plan to stay." I'm glad.

● **RALLIES and Roses is the old Labour title of a photo exhibition by Fred Jarvis, old union shaker.** He won't rank subjects: "They'll all hang together. Scargill, Blair, I've shot 'em all." The PM will not turn up for beer and cheese straws; he thinks the event is more one for John Prescott.

Fog warning

THE audience at the Labatt's Apollo on Monday must have thought it was witnessing a rendi-



Nicola Tranah: whitout.

tion of *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*. In fact, it was the opening of the Royal Ballet's *Giselle*, with Nicola Tranah playing Queen of the Wilis. Tranah made her entrance just as the dry-ice machine went solo. As the stage filled with smoke, and some more, Tranah's plié's turned to blind-fumbles. "She stumbled and went for six," says one. The curtain came down to guffaws — while the smoke machine was given an early bath.

JASPER GERARD



TWO CHEERS

Tories should back Haig's most radical instincts

The Conservative Party has rarely had much enthusiasm for democracy. It has historically operated on the basis that the Man in Westminster knows best. The ballot that affirmed William Hague's leadership and endorsed the broad principles of party reform represented the first participatory exercise of its kind. In that context — and allowing for the incoherent manner in which local associations maintain their records — both the turnout and the proportion of the ballot that backed Mr Hague should be considered satisfactory. He has a mandate for change and should be willing to use it.

The "green paper" published yesterday has been deliberately designed as a consultation exercise. At this stage the superstructure is more important than the detail. Many aspects of the proposed new constitution will command widespread support. The notion of a single party structure is sound. The creation of one central national membership list is decades overdue. The establishment of an ethics and integrity committee should allow the party to deal with accusations of personal impropriety faster. The blueprint acknowledges the chronic failure of the Tories to promote female talent. By Conservative standards it is a radical document.

It is not, though, radical enough. In a number of respects it offers only two cheers for democracy. The draft manifesto and certain policy questions would be placed before the party in the country. However, the new national membership board will have, at most, only half of its representatives drawn from outside the present power elite. Even these figures will emerge from a national convention dominated by constituency chairmen. The membership has been promised merely a "substantial proportion" of an electoral college that would select the leader. Members of Parliament would continue to dominate this crucial contest. Conservative activists have the opportu-

nity this afternoon to demand additional innovation. Mr Hague suggested that the delegates should speak their minds and be as radical as they liked. His invitation implies that he favoured further reform but has been constrained by entrenched interests. Neither the 1922 Committee nor the National Union Executive Committee has demonstrated enthusiasm for the politics of inclusion. The green paper shows that they have succeeded in restricting the expansion of internal democracy. The conference can provide Mr Hague with the ammunition to deal with this obstruction.

Where the consultative document smacks of compromise, Conservatives should insert clarity. The national membership board must be populated by people directly elected by the entire party. Without that status it will lack real standing. The cumbersome electoral college arrangements currently outlined would risk different categories of the party producing alternative results. Members of Parliament should certainly narrow the number of prospective candidates down to an acceptable number. After that "one member, one vote" alone should shape the outcome. Any other formula will lack legitimacy. Tories should not adopt a semi-detached form of democracy.

They should also not delude themselves that internal reform — of whatever quality — will in itself revive their fortunes. Numerous conference speakers yesterday appeared to believe that all aspects of public policy in the last Parliament had been an unqualified success. According to this version of history, the Tories lost office solely because of division at Westminster and inadequate organisation at the local level. The Conservatives need to approach their new constitution with the maximum degree of radicalism. Democracy should be their consistent watchword. However, Mr Hague will surely require an equally rigorous approach when he conducts his promised policy review.

WIRED FOR POUNDS

Gates needs Blair as much as Blair needs Gates

After all the build-up, yesterday's meeting between Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, and the Prime Minister was as exciting as waiting for a Website to download from the Net. Mr Gates offered enthusiasm but no money or equipment to help the Government's project to wire all Britain's schools to the Internet by 2002. Tony Blair praised Mr Gates's support as a "tremendous boost" to his scheme. He might well, though, have hoped for more.

Updating the computers in British schools is a fine ambition. Already British children are among the most computer-literate in the world. But technology fast becomes obsolete and needs updating. To remain competitive, this country needs to invest in hardware, software and the training of teachers in information technology. While the Internet should not be treated as an educational panacea, it is still useful for schools to have access to it.

But the Government should recognise its bargaining power. Britain's 32,000 schools and several million schoolchildren are a huge market for any hardware or software provider. And schools are one of only two sectors of the economy — the other being graphic design — in which PCs using Microsoft software do not dominate. The Apple system is still popular in education, but Mr Gates would be delighted to be given the chance to monopolise this market as he does so many others. Once schoolchildren are trained on one standard, they are likely to want to stick to it for the rest of their lives. If Microsoft can catch them young, it will have a good chance of winning their custom

later. Mr Gates also has an interest in gaining entry to school Internet services. At the moment, the Web browser field is dominated by Netscape, but Microsoft has about 30 per cent of the market and rising. If it could capture the British educational sector, it would gain a substantial foothold in this country.

Mr Blair would be unwise to become too close to Mr Gates. Now that Windows software is close to being an industry standard, there is well-founded and widespread anxiety that Mr Gates has an unhealthy amount of control over the most widespread and important technology in the world.

Two years ago at his party conference, Mr Blair made this mistake with another near-monopoly, when he announced with triumph that BT had offered to cable all schools, hospitals and libraries to the Net. It soon emerged that BT's competitors, the cable companies, were not happy with the idea of BT's dominance being enhanced: they were keen to join in too.

In the computerisation of schools, Mr Blair is also in a strong bargaining position. There is no need for him to ingratiate himself with hardware and software providers: he can drive a tough deal with them. It is encouraging that he intends to open the market up to bidding, not to offer Microsoft sole rights. He may even find that providers, rather than being paid by the Government, are prepared to pay him for the privilege of catching Britain's schoolchildren while they are still impressionable in the ways of the Net.

OLD WARHORSE

This burial may record the first charge of the English cavalry

The origins of the English love affair with the horse have been turned up by a bulldozer at Lakenheath. The 1,500-year-old grave of a horse and rider buried together under the Suffolk airbase is unique. Such burials are quite common on the Eurasian steppes, where horsemanship was invented. From there the cavalry hordes rode out to conquer the world, and horse and rider were not separated even in death. But only five such burials have been found before in East Anglia, one at the royal burial ground of Sutton Hoo. And they had been looted or were carelessly excavated in the 19th century, when vital material was lost. The Lakenheath burial seems to be intact. So the archaeologists should be able to reconstruct precisely the pattern and function of the horse's harness of about AD 550.

That would fill a blank chapter in the early history of British horsemanship. The Ancient Britons are celebrated in literature for their war chariots, but the Romans defeated them with the auxiliary cavalry they brought over with them from the mainland. Little enough is known about the equipment or harness of either. The Anglo-Saxons, however, had negligible cavalry. Only their kings or warlords were mounted, and the spectacle of a man on a horse would have been almost as awesome to them as the modest cavalry of Cortés and Pizarro was to the Aztecs and Incas.

There is a romantic theory that King Arthur's knights in armour echo a distant folk memory of the heavily armoured cavalry left behind by the Romans, which

terrified the horseless Anglo-Saxons. The legendary battle of Mons Badonicus, in which Arthur is said to have beaten the Saxons, was fought at about the time of this Suffolk burial. At Hastings Norman cavalry and archers with difficulty overcame the Anglo-Saxon footmen with their battle-axes. And the class antagonism between man on foot and man on horse began.

The Lakenheath horse was huge for its period, standing 16 hands. So scholars will have to rethink their accepted notion of a Saxon warlord riding into battle on a pony, dismounting to fight and remounting to ride away. Wood and felted wool, rivets and tacks have been found beside this old English horse. From them the archaeologists may now piece together a jigsaw to remake one of the earliest English saddles. Atilla is said to have brought the stirrup up into this burial on Europe's offshore island. The girth-buckle, bridle straps and snaffle bit seem remarkably similar in size and function to the tack that English riders still use.

The sinuous gilt-bronze ornamentation on the harness is early evidence of the horse as pride and sport of kings. From the beginning the horse has conferred status on its rider as well as power and mobility. The bucket found beside the horse at Lakenheath seems to have contained food. That could be the earliest instance of the grand old English cavalry axiom: a good rider sees that his horse is fed and watered before he feeds and waters himself.

Hague's challenge to start recovery

From Mr Jason Hollands

Sir, I am surprised that Andrew Reid, Andrew Honnor, James Bethell and Simon Brocklebank-Fowler, the authors of the Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet on Young Conservatives (report, October 6), are able to claim that YC membership has "fallen to 3,000".

One of the greatest problems with our current system of branch-based membership is that no one knows just how many members we really do have.

What no one should dispute is that we need vastly more young members of the party. Our student organisation is a shadow of its former self and most constituencies no longer have a YC branch which a potential member could join even if they wanted to. That is why the YCs have been advocating a system of national membership for more than a year.

The general thrust of ideas proposed by the report — namely a merger of the YCs and Conservative Students — is in fact exactly what the YCs themselves proposed in discussions with the National Union months ago.

The party should not write off its lack of members as a social or cyclical trend. Our current structure has manifestly failed to work and that is why we in the current youth wing wholly support the need for a "fresh start".

Yours faithfully,
JASON HOLLANDS
(National Chairman of the Young Conservatives, 1996-97),
113a Alderney Street, SW1,
October 6.

From Mr Jerome Gardner

Sir, I read with incredulity the comment by William Hague in your interview (October 6): "At the moment they [the Labour Government] have the easy option of sticking to our spending plans for a couple of years."

Is Mr Hague totally unaware of the present turmoil amongst health trusts and authorities as a result of the Government's stubborn adherence to inadequate "cost saving" limits? Does he not know that hospitals up and down the country are under threat of forced closure because of the continuation of the "plans" he refers to with such complacency?

This option may seem easy to Hague — though I doubt that Frank Dobson shares his view. It certainly does not look that way to those like myself who live in isolated rural areas and are in danger of losing vital local services.

Yours faithfully,
JEROME GARDNER,
Mortcombe,
Cherry Bridge,
Barbrook, Lynton, Devon,
October 7.

From Mr Mark Hamer

Sir, William Hague deserved praise for coming to Fleetwood's fish dock, not ridicule (report, October 7).

Once the greatest fishing port on our western seaboard, Fleetwood is now a shadow of its former self. Our industry has been almost destroyed by the actions of successive governments over the past 25 years.

We spoke to him for 30 minutes and came away impressed, not only with the man himself, but with his enthusiasm and obvious capability. I got the firm impression he was committed to redressing past mistakes.

At long last we firmly believe that we have a major political party which is on the fishermen's side. We thank William Hague for that and wish him well.

Yours faithfully,
MARK HAMER
(Secretary,
Fleetwood Fishermen's Association,
19 Poulton Street,
Fleetwood, Lancashire,
October 7.

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, In the first extract of his authorised biography, *Major: A Political Life* (October 2) see also extracts, October 3, 4, 7. Dr Anthony Seldon quotes the former Prime Minister as saying on May 1, with words that recalled the theatrical tradition of his parents: "When the curtain falls, it is time to get off the stage."

I prefer: "You should get off the stage while they are still applauding." Perhaps if the Conservative Party had heeded this when Lady Thatcher was still in power (and conducted a more decorous change of leadership instead of unceremoniously shoving her out) we might not be witnessing the party in its current sad and ignominious freefall.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RAYBOULD,
88 Lawrence Moorings,
Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire,
October 3.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taking sides on the right to drive

From Mr Mark McArthur-Christie

Sir, It was extremely encouraging to read today's letter from Professor Stanley Feldman and Professor Vincent Marks challenging the popular view of cars as polluting monsters and pointing out that emissions from buses, coaches and diesel trains constitute a greater threat to health than those from cars.

Cars are getting cleaner. A modern petrol car produces less than 10 per cent of the pollution of its pre-1993 counterpart, and emissions are set to fall by 50 per cent over the next ten years without the additional legislation already planned. One bus, on the other hand, produces more particulates than 128 cars and more oxides of nitrogen than 39 cars (figures from the Natural Environmental Technology Centre). However, these are not figures trumpeted by those claiming concern for the environment.

As your correspondents point out, even if buses and bicycles are the current politically correct modes of transport, cars are both convenient and extremely useful. We need to recognise that owning and driving a car is not tantamount to environmental destruction, but an essential freedom vital to both individuals and the economy.

Yours faithfully,
M. MCARTHUR-CHRISTIE
(Committee member,
Association of British Drivers),
160 Farmer's Close,
Witney, Oxfordshire,
October 1.

From the Director General
of the Confederation of
Passenger Transport UK

Sir, There are some fundamental flaws in the reasoning by Professors Feldman and Marks.

True, one bus or coach produces a higher level of particulate emissions than one car. However, the average bus carries the occupants of 20 average cars, so emissions per passenger mile are much lower. In addition, diesels produce around 20 per cent less

CO₂ than an equivalent petrol engine, thus lessening the threat of global warming.

Buses and coaches are getting cleaner in parallel with cars. European standards for particulate and other emissions were stepped up last October, and will become even more demanding over the next decade.

The reality is that greater use of buses and coaches by people who currently use cars will relieve congestion, reduce pollution levels and improve the urban environment.

Yours faithfully,
VERONICA PALMER,
Director General,
Confederation of Passenger
Transport UK,
Imperial House,
15-19 Kingsway, WC2,
October 1.

From Mr Timothy H. Jones

Sir, The decision by the French Government to ban private vehicles with odd and even-numbered licence plates on alternate days (report, October 2) appears to be a brilliant solution to tackling smog pollution in Paris.

However, I believe that in several European countries where this ruling has already been introduced those who can afford to do so are simply likely to buy two cars, one with an odd-numbered and the other with an even-numbered registration, thereby increasing the overall numbers of cars on the road.

In Italy, which has the highest number of cars per head of population, the problem is compounded further by the effect which owning an extra car has on the purchasing of new vehicles. Not being able to afford a new car and a second-hand one, many people are obliged to own two cheaper second-hand vehicles. What is worse, they keep these cars and drive them when they are unroadworthy or pollution hazards.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY H. JONES,
25-3 Edina Place, Edinburgh 7,
October 2.

Art and censorship

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Dr Justin Seabrook repeats the mantra, "Censorship is not an answer to offensive material" (letter, October 3; see also letters, September 18, 19, 29) in defence of the Royal Academy Sensation exhibition. There is a distinction to be made between censorship from outside (eg, by the Government) and self-censorship.

If, as I hope, Dr Seabrook abstains from foul language in private, let alone in public, he is rightly applying self-censorship. That is what some of us expect of the RA. It is not duty-bound to display everything that describes itself (or is described by Mr Seabrook) as art.

If I set my mind to it, I expect I could submit something to the RA and claim that it is a work of art. It might be quite bland and inoffensive or it might be disgusting. In either case I think the RA should reject it because my productions would not qualify as art; and if it did so, it would not occur to me to complain of censorship.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11.

From Mr Michael S. Bruce

Sir, Dr Seabrook's letter does not materially contribute to this discus-

sion. First, he demands tolerance in artistic matters, yet offers no definition of art. Until we can agree on a definition, this will be an empty form of words. Pornographers, sadists and vandals have all claimed that their activities are art: does Dr Seabrook accept such claims at face value, or does he draw a line somewhere? And if so, where?

Even if we concede the point in full, there will still be a problem. Art, however fine, involving serious human or animal distress is, arguably, immoral. Bullfighting, child pornography and blasphemy have all been claimed as art: they all delight some people and distress others. It is not enough (in any of these cases) to argue that a sensitive person may simply turn his back: the distress is caused by the mere existence of the offence.

To safeguard civilised existence we need restraints. Compromises between competing principles are forced on us. I suggest that we should discuss the uses and limits of censorship in this context. The likely outcome of a debate conducted in the absolute terms implied by Dr Seabrook's letter is not an absence of censorship or a triumph of tolerance — it is over-regulation of our right to free expression.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. BRUCE,
3 Wistow Road, Selby, Yorkshire,
October 3.

Morton and Red Cross

From Mr David Hobman

Sir, The possible decision by the British Red Cross Society, and other charities associated with Princess Diana, to refuse a donation from Andrew Morton and his publishers (report, October 6; see also letter, October 7) is certainly mistaken, and possibly illegal.

Some years ago, when I was Director of Age Concern England, we were one of a number of national charities selected as potential beneficiaries of donations from a group of workers who had refused to join a union within a closed-shop agreement. The arrangement reached followed an approved procedure.

We were then attacked, and threatened with legal action, by a group hos-

tile to the closed shop. As it happened, the money did not materialise.

However, our legal advisers said it was not for us to judge the motives of donors. Unless gifts are known to be the result of a criminal act, the responsibility of charitable trustees is to accept donations for the benefit of the cause they serve and to use it well. Even then, it isn't always easy to identify the source when an envelope stuffed with ancient banknotes arrives without identification.

Forgiveness of sins, and the expiation for ancient crimes, are part and parcel of the same process. It's called Christianity.

Yours etc,
DAVID HOBMAN,
Robinsons, George's Lane,
Storrington, West Sussex,
October 6.

Cancer trials

From Dr John Radford

Sir, In your issue of September 22, under the heading "Fertility hope for boys who survive cancer", you report extensively on the experimental treatment planned for a two-year-old boy about to receive sterilising chemotherapy. He is to have testicular tissue removed and stored in liquid nitrogen, in the hope of giving him a chance to father children in the future.

Let the expectations of parents of other young boys so affected are raised unjustifiably. I wish to point out that the technique described has not yet been shown to be effective even in the human adult male. Until such evidence is available I believe the collection and storage of this tissue from young boys is highly questionable.

Since May 1995 a research group under my chairmanship, supported by the Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund, has been investigating the possibility

of using a patient's own spermatogonial cells (collected from the testis and frozen before chemotherapy) to reconstitute fertility after the completion of treatment. So far, testicular tissue has been harvested from seven young men and the first reinjection of spermatogonial cells is planned for next year. Only if these reinjections prove successful would we consider applying the technique to children.

Meanwhile, we believe that experiments of the type you report should be confined to tightly regulated clinical trials, where efficacy and safety can be monitored and objective analysis of costs and benefits to the patient is certain.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RADFORD
(Consultant physician and senior lecturer in medical oncology),
Christie Hospital NHS Trust,
Wilmslow Road,
Withington, Manchester,
September 26.

Call for a rethink on school French

From Mr Richard Branson

Sir, For historic reasons French is the compulsory foreign language taught in our schools. My daughter is about to do French in the sixth form, not out of choice but because she's never had the chance to do Spanish.

So much of the world (including 50 per cent of North Americans) now speaks Spanish, it is the second international language after English. Most of the popular holiday destinations visited by British people now are Spanish, not French-speaking. And it's an easier language to learn.

Should we not be considering whether Spanish should replace French as our second language?

Kind regards,
RICHARD BRANSON
(Chairman),
Virgin Group of Companies,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8,
October 7.

Solti and Bartok

From Mr Peter Timar

Sir, I read with surprise in today's *Diary* that the Hungarian Ambassador, Mr Gabor Szentivanyi, is hoping that Sir Georg Solti's final resting place will be in Budapest because, as he says, "he is one of our all-time greats. He ranks with Bartok".

Sir Georg Solti was definitely an eminent Hungarian conductor who died away from his homeland. But whether he was pre-eminent amongst all the other very eminent Hungarian conductors (Reiner, Dorati, Szell, Kertesz), who also rest in foreign lands, is a matter of personal opinion. Is Mr Szentivanyi planning to take them all back to Hungary?

As for ranking Solti with Bartok, Mr Szentivanyi (whom I suspect may be more knowledgeable about diplomacy than music) should realise that a conductor — no matter how great and popular — is only a mere interpreter and as such cannot be ranked with the creativity of a composer, and especially not with the genius of Bartok.

What next? Karajan ranks with Beethoven?

Yours faithfully,
PETER TIMAR,
14 Sunny Hill, NW4,
October 3.

Brum culture

From Mr Wilfred Morgan

Sir, Neither Shakespeare nor Dr Johnson would have spoken with a Birmingham accent (leading article, "Brum's the word", October 1; letter, October 3).

The people of Stratford and Lichfield do not speak like Brummies, and I suspect that in the times of Shakespeare and Johnson the differences of accents would have been more marked because there was less communication between places that were miles apart.

However, as a Brummie, I take pleasure that someone should link the names of two such eminent people with Birmingham. Nobody to my knowledge who was born and lived a major part of their life in Birmingham has ever risen to national prominence in the arts. The city of a thousand trades is no breeding ground for romantics.

Yours faithfully,
WILF MORGAN,
159 Marsh Lane,
Erdington, Birmingham,
October 3.

Ask a silly question . . .

From Mr D. L. B. Hartley

Sir, When I was a boy at Lancaster Royal Grammar School an examination was held on the last day of the summer term for the purpose of awarding endowed scholarship prizes (letters, September 1 — October 4). In answer to the question: "What was 'A Sabbath Day's Journey'?" a fellow pupil wrote, "A Sabbath Day's Journey is from Lancaster to Morecambe Odeon". (Cinemas were closed in Lancaster on Sundays but open in Morecambe, four miles away.)

He had thought he was leaving school that term, but his family's arrangements were changed and when he came back to school in September he was caned. That was in 1933.

Yours truly,
DESMOND HARTLEY,
Chyll Bank,
Brook Road, Windermere, Cumbria,
October 5.

Thanks, but no thanks

From Mr Nicholas Neve

Sir, Having also become eligible for a giant electronic frog which says "Ribbit, Ribbit" (letter, October 5), I obtained one and have found it excellent both for entertaining small grandchildren indoors and as a deterrent to neighbours' cats in the garden.

For moles, an electronic card which repeatedly plays "Happy Birthday" seems more effective.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS NEVE,
Eynhallow,
The Purlieu, Upper Colwall,
Malvern, Worcestershire,
October 6.

GEORGE URBAN

After his 70th birthday, Urban withdrew from many of his activities to write his book *Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher*, which was serialised in *The Times* last year, and his memoirs, *Radio Free Europe and the Pursuit of Democracy*, which Yale University Press is to publish next February.

George Urban was twice married, first, and briefly, in Hungary during the war to Ika, and secondly in London in 1957 to Patricia. He is survived by his second wife, their son and daughter, and a son from his first marriage.



After his retirement from teaching, he spent more time in a much-changed Chelsea, where his tall figure was familiar on his bicycle, at the Chelsea Arts Club and at the Stephen Bartley Gallery, where he exhibited. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.



He married in 1948 Julia Wallace, by whom he had three daughters and two sons. This marriage was dissolved in 1977 in which year he married Joyce Parker Scott. She and the children of his first marriage survive him.

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THE MOMENT I KNEW
THAT SADAT TRUSTED ME


By Shimon Peres
Leader of the Israeli opposition Labour Party

When Dr Henry Kissinger told us, after leaving met President Sadat for the first time, that he was an impressive person, I felt that he was right. He has considerable charm, we raised our eyebrows. That was not what we gathered from his pictures and how we saw his image. We thought of him as a cold man, a remote and distant person and rather unapproachable. Later, when we met for the first time, face to face, we were immensely struck by his strange, almost a very unusual one — and by his capacity for winning your attention and your trust ... I believe I gained his confidence as a result of it is unique way in judging people. When we met for the first time for a very long time, he started by saying, "I am glad to meet you." He spoke freely and with complete candour and entirely off the record. Nothing will be revealed by me and I believe that nothing will be revealed by you."

I responded immediately by saying: "Answer, you are wrong. It is my duty to warn you that in spite of the fact that I am the leader

ON THIS DAY

October 8, 1981



Mohammad Anwar El-Sadat (1918-81), President of Egypt by Muslim extremists, signed a historic peace accord with Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel. The two were awarded the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize.

The Opposition, you must take consideration that every word you may utter will repeat to Menachem Begin". He was surprised by my reaction but ended by saying, Shimon — now I know that I care about you full confidence."

During this conversation which took place a year ago, he said his deep respect for Hoshi Mubarak, saying "God man and a sincere one. I keep him informed so that when necessary he should continue the policies I have initiated. I know him a stable person though I do not know how he will confront the Arab people."

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Leaving Best for better

Would you give up an editorship and £60,000 a year for marriage? Julie Akhurst has, says Carol Midgley

Julie Akhurst, Editor of the women's weekly *Best*, has surprised colleagues by quitting to get married, declared the *UK Press Gazette* on its front page this week. In truth the reactions of some of those colleagues, says Ms Akhurst, was closer to shock and outright incredulity.

Why on earth, they wondered, would someone bother to beat off fierce competition, secure the coveted editorship of a national magazine and an estimated £60,000 salary, only to give it all up to become a wife and mother? More astonishingly, she was leaving *London* to move in with her boyfriend, Steve Brown, in Bradford.

Such earth-shattering life decisions have a habit of making front-page news these days. Last month America went into a reverie when Brenda Barnes, the 43-year-old president and chief executive of PepsiCo North America, surrendered her £1 million salary plus bonuses and announced she was quitting to spend more time with the children. In 1995 Penny Hughes caused similar upset when she relinquished her position as president of Coca-Cola, Great Britain and Ireland, and a few months later Linda Kelsey left as Editor of *She* magazine to spend more time with her son.

Quitting while she was at the top, however, appears to have been part of Julie Akhurst's life-plan all along, despite being a graduate of St Hilda's, Oxford, and pursuing a rapid route to the top in magazines. She began her career as a secretary in a publishing company, moving to *Reader's Digest* as commissioning editor. She then became features editor on Bauer's *Take A Break* and was later headhunted by Alric Futura to launch *That's Life* in Australia, where she stayed for two years.

"I had always decided that I would give being editor two years at *Best* and then think about moving up with Steve," she says. "Then I thought, who is imposing this deadline? Me. I have done 19½ months, so what is stopping me from going now apart from myself? Life is too short."

"Having children has always been very important to me, and I don't want to raise kids in London."



Julie Akhurst: "I wanted to be a magazine editor and now I have done it"

"People have reacted in different ways, but mainly with shock. The most common reaction I have heard is 'How can you give up all this?' Which seems to imply that the kind of life I want has little or no value. That choosing to be a mother is not what you do if you are clever. But I have always known that this is what I would do."

At 33, Ms Akhurst has decided that

she has had enough of struggling to work through the London traffic each day from her flat in Crouch End and the strain of sustaining a long-distance relationship.

It must also be pointed out that now is a particularly gruelling time for the women's magazine market in general, with more titles creeping into the already crowded arena and men's

magazines beginning to steal a march over women's. *Best*, which Ms Akhurst took upmarket, was averaging weekly sales of 551,000 in the first half of 1996. In the first half of 1997 that average had fallen to 512,000.

She concedes the job was hard: "It is very difficult in the women's weekly magazine market at the moment. You are constantly struggling to hold the figures up."

Like increasing numbers of women, Ms Akhurst did not want to get into the cycle of working long hours, having a nanny and rarely seeing her children.

"Officially it's 10 until 6, but you find yourself coming in at 8.30 and working straight through to 7.30pm without a lunchbreak. I am not saying that's particularly bad, but you couldn't do that with children. Well, I wouldn't want to anyway."

She met her fiancé, 36, who runs part of a builders' merchant business in Bradford, two years ago and they will marry next year. He offered to try to find work in London if she wanted to stay in her job but for Julie, there was no dilemma.

"I love London — I have lived here on and off since I was 22 — but it is time to move on," she says.

"It has been very difficult conducting a long-distance relationship. Each weekend either I will go up to Bradford to see him or he will come down to London to see me. We tend to stay over Sunday nights so, because he starts work at 8am, Steve has to get up at 3am to drive back up to Yorkshire. If I am in Bradford I will get the early train and go straight into work. After a while that starts to grind you down."

"I wanted to be an editor of a magazine and now I have done it so I can happily put it to one side and say I have got that out of my system. I don't have a feeling of under-achievement because I have done it and no one can ever take that away."

"People might think I will get bored but, without wanting to sound arrogant, I think you can choose whether you are going to be bored at home or not. My mother always had a very imaginative attitude to it. She loved bringing us up and I hope I can be like that as well. I think that freelanceing is a good halfway house."

"At work a couple of people have said they agree with me and a couple have even come up and said 'I think you are really lucky'."

"I don't think a career alone can totally fulfil you. It is like going towards the rainbow and when you get there the rainbow's not there any more."

"People who already have children might think I am idealising it and I might be, but we will have to see. Time will tell."

The BBC is 75 next week. Happy returns?

Awkward questions on Auntie's birthday

Hold on to your hats. Everyone who switches on their television set or radio over the next few weeks is likely to face a gale of nostalgia and self-congratulation. The BBC will be 75 next week and the anniversary will be very difficult to avoid.

There will be special programmes on every BBC outlet, from *The Story of Pop Radio* and *A Tribute to the BBC Dance Orchestra* on Radio 2 to *Radio Memories* and *Auntie Through the Looking Glass* on Radio 4. There is even a special edition of the longest-running programme in the history of broadcasting, *The Daily Service*.

Television offers no escape, either. There will be a history of broadcasting on *Blue Peter*, a special edition of *One Foot in the Past* devoted to Broadcasting House, and *Auntie — The Inside Story*, a four-part "warts-and-all" account of the corporation and the personalities who have made it what it is.

The BBC promises that the series "does not avoid the controversies which have kept the BBC in the headlines", although in the interests of making history rather than current affairs, it stops diplomatically at 1987.

The BBC has indeed much to celebrate as an institution, and is clearly still developing and mixing it rather freely in the intensely competitive modern world of broadcasting where ratings usually rule.

Only one thing seems to be missing among the welter of *Muffin the Mule* stamps, free nostalgia postcards, free BBC CD-Roms for schools and great moments of BBC sound for those interested in buying the double CD. There is little sense of any debate about the present or future of the BBC, any questioning of how the place is run, or how it could be made more efficient or more responsive to the British public. Certainly no one is asking hard questions about how long a compulsory universal licence fee can continue to exist in a 200-channel world when the BBC is trying to make some more money on the side by launching new subscription channels.

The BBC is, however, linking the back-slapping anniversary celebrations with a series of promotional films — advertisements in all but name — for the licence fee.

One long advertorial, *Perfect Day*, featuring a succession of distinguished singers putting together the song of that name in syntheses, has already appeared. Much more is on the way. Everyone from Mikhail Gorbachev and Shimon Peres to the Dalai Lama, Seamus Heaney and Jack Charlton, has been corralled to take part in short films endorsing the public service values of the

BBC, and by implication the public service method of paying for them.

It all seems very odd: like politicians running for office even though election day is years away. It might have the undesired side-effect of exciting advertisers by demonstrating, yet again, just how effective the BBC could be as an advertising medium.

In fact, the argument for retention of the licence, despite the rough justice of what amounts to a regressive poll tax, is a very strong one. Of course the BBC would survive and possibly flourish if the licence fee was abolished and replaced by voluntary subscription, but the corporation would no longer be a national broadcaster and it is very unlikely that it could afford to be a nation of the air.

It would be even easier to put advertising on the BBC and destroy the remnants of public service and diversity in the TV schedule.

The BBC's importance as an institution is not in question; its uniqueness ought to be. Some form of public audit of its performance is required that goes far beyond simplistic comparisons of programme costs per hour.

It is a task that could, at least in principle, be performed by the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, suggested that to make the BBC more accountable,

the BBC Chairman, Sir Christopher Blundell, should appear before the committee once a year to discuss the corporation's affairs. It is an invitation Sir Christopher has taken up.

Many interesting questions could be asked. Why, for instance, are there some 160 expensive people in "policy and strategic adviser" functions dotted around the corporation? Why, if anything, like such a concentration of brainpower, is being paid for by licence payers, is it necessary to have expensive external consultants in almost permanent residence in the corporation?

It is wise to be cutting programme budgets by 30 per cent over the next five years so that up to £1 billion can be spent on all things digital over the same period, when it could be ten years before most licence payers have digital viewing equipment.

There are many more questions that should be asked of the BBC. But if the select committee were to get answers to those few, it would be progress — and we could all get back to enjoying Tony Robinson tracing the relationship between God and the BBC in his history of religious broadcasting, and the BBC's "landmarks of laughter" in Muriel and Nordeen's *Funny Old Auntie*.

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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

I want to be in the media

MEDIA STUDIES is one of the fastest-growing disciplines in higher education. This week nearly 700 eager students are starting a media degree, hopeful that it will secure a job in television or the press. But do too many of them see the course as an easy way in? Do too many leave feeling that they are better qualified than they really are? And do employers prefer to train their staff from scratch? More importantly, are colleges raising false hopes by offering ever more media places when the jobs are not there? Henry Bonsu and Sandy Parker consider the facts

Make contacts, get discovered

The hardest thing about running a media course, said a friend the other day, "is preparing all those young people for jobs that don't exist." I expressed some sympathy — there is no satisfaction in providing qualifications that have little value — but I have more sympathy for those on the media-studies production line, who often find their way to my door.

Usually the callers are young, black and female, and their opening words are: "Hi, I was told I should contact you if I want to get into the media."

I have never edited a programme, but I am approached like this about once a month by individuals hooked on the promise of flexible hours in a "creative" field. Armed with industry-accredited qualifications, they are prepared to enter the market at any level, believing that within a year or two they'll be a regular on-screen presence on national television.

Some callers have masked their true intention, claiming to be interested in news journalism, but finally admitting neither to listening to Radio 4, nor regularly reading a broadsheet newspaper.

One young man recently rang asking for help in getting into "news and current affairs". During the conversation he confessed that he really wanted to be a youth and entertainment presenter. "I'm into media in general. Once I get in, I can work out what to do next," he explained.

I try to tackle such hazy ambition by explaining that it pays to narrow down one's interest, research the job in question, and write to a named producer with whose programme you are familiar.

It is also surprising how many young people, who harbour desires to work on news programmes, are unaware how deep a loathing many editors have of media studies degrees. I have often heard them say they would prefer a graduate in politics or history, who has done a postgraduate media course from somewhere like City University.

Without industry contacts, getting as far as writing in for work experience is beyond many applicants. All too often they pin their hopes on traineeships, such as the highly competitive, in-house BBC news trainee schemes, without a hope of getting in.

The ethnic minority courses, established by the BBC and some ITV companies for black and Asian students to counter-

act discrimination in recruitment, are also inundated with applications.

The BBC has also been running a mentor scheme which matches black teenagers who want careers in the media with black members of staff. Mentors and mentees have regular meetings over a nine month period, and the students are found in-house work experience.

Some manage to benefit immeasurably from the personal contacts they establish, yet even for those who did not progress, it gave them an idea of what working in television is like.

I recall one young man, desperate to be taken out filming, who found it so boring he fell asleep in front of a learned QC. Others had clearly joined the course because they weren't sure what else to do.

Vagueness is possibly the most serious handicap of all. Because most jobs in the media, unlike surgery or law, can be handled by most people, the industry attracts those who have few burning passions but think they can do the job better than those they have seen on television.

Thankfully, steps are being taken to address this. Last week I attended a careers conference aimed at sixth-form students. "Television, radio and film producers promised a potentially satisfying career if only applicants could target the area they were genuinely interested in. The mantra of the evening was: make contacts, find work experience, have ideas, get discovered."

One danger of getting in by any means necessary, however, is that you may stay in a junior position for years. A former BBC colleague has realised this. She recently walked out of a coveted staff post after many years. She found her working day so unbearable that by the end she could hardly bring herself to walk into Broadcasting House. Her job title, "production assistant", may have sounded impressive — and she did meet the odd politician — but in reality it amounted to ten hours of booking studios and radio cars, answering the queries of irate freelancers, and showing editors how the photocopier worked. She was attracted to the media because she thought she was creative.

HENRY BONSU

The author was a journalist on the Today programme from 1993 to 1996. He is now a freelance broadcaster and writer.



A lot of universities jumped on the bandwagon when they saw how popular media studies courses were becoming

Courses are no 'open sesame'

It is easy to see why media studies is so popular with students. It has an attraction and an immediacy with which "heavier" academic subjects cannot compete. Universities and colleges have responded by providing more graduate places and churning out media wannabes at an increasing rate. But once qualified, where do they all go?

Duncan Adams, who graduated two years ago from Bournemouth University, is now a press officer for Sussex Police. He claims that the marketplace is swamped with media graduates. "It was such a fight for jobs when I got out," he says, "and in some cases having a media degree was a disadvantage. For one low-paid, quite menial job there were 780 applicants." Two years on he thinks that only about half the students of his year have found media-related jobs: one works on *EastEnders*, another does promotional work for BBC videos.

Yet Bournemouth University offers some of the most established media courses. "A lot of universities jumped on the bandwagon when they saw how popular the subject was," says Paul Luman, course leader for the television and video production degree at Bournemouth. "We never said we offered specialist technical degrees. We aim to produce all-rounders."

Part of the trouble is that many students who take media degrees see them as an easy way into professions

such as journalism — which is not what they are intended to be. Shy teenage girls are particularly vulnerable to such notions. They say they want to work in newspapers, but are unlikely to be accepted on to a regional newspaper training scheme where a strong personality is as important as A-level results. They think that what they can learn in the classroom will make up for their lack of confidence. It does not work like that.

Then there are the overconfident graduates who think they know it all. Students talk about going to television companies on work experience and being told to "unlearn everything they had picked up at university. The technology changes so quickly and the skills required are so specialised that companies prefer to train someone to suit their own systems."

Nigel Henbest, director of the television production company Pioneer Productions, says that what his company looks for most in prospective employees is "hands-on" experience. It might be helpful to have a university education, but it would not really matter what the degree subject was.

Other employers look for someone who can offer them a specialism, such as a science degree, whom they can then train in media techniques.

To be fair, few academics claim that

their courses are "open sesame" to a future in the media. They suggest that the problem is partly generational: anyone older than their mid-40s will probably not have had the option of studying media, and there is a tendency among such professionals to be sniffy about media education.

There are signs, though, that the mood is changing. One consistent complaint has been that media studies courses are too wide-ranging, so the newer ones have become more specialised. The better educational institutions have always courted experts to give guest lectures or to run some of their courses. The liaison works both ways — prejudice will be broken down only if the industry knows what students are learning, and if teaching staff have the respect of the industry.

If you believe the optimism on campus, we are on the edge of a new technological age. The consequences of deregulation, the advent of digital television and Website publishing are just some of the areas that could open up whole new fields of employment requiring people with transferable, multimedia skills.

My advice is that anyone considering the university option should talk to recent graduates and ask the staff exactly what they aim to prepare students for.

SANDY PARKER

The author is a lecturer in media studies

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur



A smoking gun of a photograph

It's such a nice picture, especially for a Saturday morning. It features two of Britain's best-known models, Kate Moss and Jade Jagger. They are famous, beautiful, dressed in striking colours, their hair tied up in equally colourful buns made of fishnet, and at £500 each the dresses cost a lot more than the average working person's weekly wage. It's a photograph to dwell on. It could easily spark off a conversation over breakfast.

There is only one problem. As this picture appeared on the front page of *The Times* two Saturdays ago (now suitably censored for *Paper Round*), both Moss and Jagger were smoking cigarettes — and only one executive, a woman smoker, realised the potential danger involved in publishing it.

The rest found no difficulty. It was the day of the Assisi disaster, but when the paper went to press there were no useable pictures showing the extent of the damage — and the verdict on the Giotto was that they were better used alongside the story inside where the earthquake was reported in detail. So Saturday editor Nicholas Wapshott opted for some Saturday fun — two models enjoying a chat, a giggle and a lag as they relaxed at the end of London Fashion Week.

It is easy to mount a defence of the photograph, and only a few years ago it would have provoked no serious comment. Photographs show facts, however disturbing, and readers who see them can draw their own conclusions. One conclusion would be that young women still smoke, despite all the propaganda against smoking, and that it was a striking and colourful picture. Neither did *The Times* endorse their habit: it simply showed that it was one in which they indulged.

Another conclusion, however, would be that the two women were flagrantly abusing their positions as role models, that our photographer should not even have taken the picture, that the picture editor should not have offered it for use — and that if he did the night editors should have spiked it.

Our readers overwhelmingly endorsed the second conclusion, and the Editor received one of his angriest postbags for years. The photograph legitimised and glorified a dangerous activity. It made smoking seem "cool", the "in" thing to do (that from a 14-year-old). As role models, Moss and Jagger were likely to be imitated by other young



Kate and Jade: smokeless

girls, a complaint from several parents.

It was a photograph that would lead some younger readers into "disease and death", said one correspondent. "An unwilling photograph of secretive lovers is far more acceptable than the willing photograph of cigarette-smoking young ladies," wrote another.

The editors who selected the picture offended against no article of the Press Complaints Commission's code of practice. Yet unwittingly and innocently, by appearing to condone smoking (which is, it ought to be said, still a legal activity), they offended the sensitivities, the view of what newspapers should or should not publish, of many readers. As our postbag demonstrated, we live in politically correct times. Editors beware. America here we come.

At *The Times* the lesson has gone home. Peter Stothard, the Editor, says he would think very carefully before using a picture of women smoking cigarettes with such prominence again. It would have to pass a very high hurdle of justification. So was he being politically correct? "Only to the extent that editors need to be reminded every so often that some photographs are potentially harmful. Ambassadors and city chairmen try to influence me: why shouldn't readers, too, when they have a good case to make?"

The offending picture was the subject of last Saturday's caption-picture competition. Among the entries were:

"I don't think smoking is any more dangerous than living near Sellafield, do you?"

"I earn more doing these cigarette adverts than I do modelling."

"... and the X-ray showed this huge shadow."

Some readers clearly took the real message from the picture.

Raymond Snoddy on the resilience of well known brands in the face of 'own-label' price-cutting

Brand-names bounce back

The long, bitter battle between "own-label" supermarket brands and leading premium brands is about to enter a new phase. Dr Stephan Buck, an executive director of Taylor Nelson AGB, a top-market researcher who believes that own-label brands may be about to hit their high-water mark, and that premium brands, despite the price difference, may be bouncing back.

With the help of detailed research from a 10,000-strong panel that logs electronically what groceries they buy every week, Dr Buck believes that "leading premium brands continue to display great strength and resilience."

The own-label market share has almost doubled in the past 20 years to take over 40 per cent of the packaged grocery market. But an analysis of 29 major product areas, for which data is available over 20 years, shows that in 19 of them the brand leader in the 1970s remains the brand leader in the 1990s.

Coca-Cola may have lost out in some supermarkets to the launch of own-label colas but overall, Dr Buck argues, Coca-Cola's market share has hardly diminished. The reason, he believes, is that top brands such as Coca-Cola have other outlets, such as small independent stores, garages and vending machines.

In the packaged-detergent market many of the major multiples, led by Sainsbury's, had produced their own sub-

brands, such as Sainsbury's Novon, but the major manufacturers such as Procter & Gamble and Unilever still dominate their markets partly, Dr Buck notes, through television advertising.

Even in a market where price-cutting has been at its most intense — such as in baked beans — the premium products have not suffered the collapse in market share that many expected. "Even at the height of the price war, Heinz maintained its market share in value terms, and now that the worse excesses of the war are over, the Heinz share has reached its highest level for years," Dr Buck says.

The researcher, with his colleague Judith Passingham, believes that the growth of own-label products, which are liked and respected by consumers, was boosted by the major multiples winning market share from independent retailers, and major retailers increasing their share

of own-label products in line with Sainsbury's. Sainsbury's own-label products have retained a share of around 56 per cent for a number of years.

The researchers note, however, that a comparison of two 12-week periods in 1997 against 1996 shows a decline of three percentage points in Sainsbury's own-label share from 56 per cent to 53 per cent.

"If Sainsbury's and other major retailers regard own-label shares at 55 per cent as being the optimal level, and if major multiples control 90 per cent of the packaged grocery market in the future, it suggests that own-label shares should find a ceiling at around 50 per cent of all packaged grocery expenditure," Dr Buck argues.

The big supermarket chains also seem less inclined to get involved in price-cutting campaigns with own-label products which can harm retailers as much as premium-brand manufacturers. In fact, as own-label products look like reaching their peak, Dr Buck and Ms Passingham believe a new relationship could be established between the protagonists.

"Over the next few years the expansion of types of products and services sold at supermarkets, and, in the longer term, possible changes in the basic technology of shopping, could begin to create a new and less confrontational equilibrium between the retailers and their packaged goods suppliers," the researchers argue.

BEATING THE PREMIUM

AVERAGE PRICES IN TESCO STORES

	Premium brand	Tesco own-label	Value* label
Instant coffee	185p	130p	57p
Baked beans	33p	23p	10p
Cola	65p	30p	13p
Washing-up liquid	185p	82p	20p
Muesli	202p	158p	132p
Yoghurt	184p	161p	89p
Average index	100	69	25

* Tesco's 100p reference brand



Stephan Buck: "optimal level for own-label is 50 per cent"

THE TIMES

MONEY MATTERS.

Start planning for your future with The Times 4-part Money Guide. Get part two, free this Saturday.

CHANGING TIMES

NEWS

Hague slaps down Tory 'dinosaurs'

William Hague exerted his new authority over the Conservative Party by slapping down two Tory "dinosaurs" over controversial remarks at conference fringe meetings.

Hours after his endorsement as party leader, he demonstrated a determination to impose discipline by disowning Lord Tebbit for speaking against a multicultural society and criticising Alan Clark for saying that the only way to deal with the IRA was to kill 600 people in one night. Pages 1, 8, 9

Human cells used to grow body parts

A method of growing body tissue, known as tissue engineering, will soon make it possible to produce an almost complete range of body spare parts for transplants. Scientists have already produced skin grafts, but are now using the method to grow bone, cartilage and ligament. Page 1

Oxbridge anger

Attacking the Government's higher education spending review, Oxford's vice-chancellor said cutting support for the Oxford and Cambridge college system would "destroy their competitive position". Page 1

Talks overshadowed

The first full-scale peace negotiations involving Unionists, nationalists, loyalists and republicans opened, overshadowed by the resignation of Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister. Page 2

Murder charge

British teenager Louise Woodward murdered a baby in a fit of rage while unhappy with her life as a nanny, an American jury was told. Page 3

Saxon skeletons

An archaeologist removed the final traces of Saxon soil from a Saxon warrior and warhorse who journeyed across the landscape 1,500 years ago. Page 4

Arts report

A report into the Arts Council of England and the Royal Opera House has cleared the two of an "inappropriate closeness", according to a summary released by the Arts Council. Page 4

Computer talk

The Princess Royal found an ally when she urged schools not to allow computers to dominate education — Bill Gates. Page 5

The Queen dons socks to visit mosque

The Queen had donned navy blue socks — looking suspiciously like British Airways-issue — when she entered the echoing vastness of the Faisal Mosque in Islamabad to view one of the many architectural masterpieces in the Pakistani city. Its main prayer hall can accommodate 10,000 people and her visit was slotted into a gap between prayers. Page 1

Bagshot awaits

Prince Edward's plan to move in next door met a mixed response from those already living in Bagshot. Page 6

16-day siege

Separatist militiamen from all over America have rallied to the side of a 51-year-old widow who has been barricaded inside a farmhouse for 16 days. Page 10

Back to Earth

Back at Kennedy Space Centre after more than four months on board Mir, Michael Foale was unable to conceal the profound effect on the crew of the June's accident. Page 11

French strike

French rail workers mounted autumn's first big strike to bolster demands for a shorter working week before an employment conference that will present the Government with its toughest challenge so far. Page 12

Russian plea

Red Cross officials called on Russia's new wealthy to help an estimated 31 million people living below the poverty line. Page 12

White House attack

The chairman of the Senate committee investigating alleged political fundraising abuses exploded in frustration at the White House for "flooding and concealing" over controversial video tapes. Page 13



The Spice Girls in Granada to launch *Spiceworld*, sales of which may top 18 million. The album's UK release date is November 3

Economy: The headline rate of inflation rose in September, but the Government's target rate dipped slightly. Annual headline inflation reached 3.6 per cent from 3.5 in August. The underlying rate fell to 2.7 (2.8 in August). Page 25

Payoff: Ray Irani, Occidental Petroleum's chairman, will be paid \$95 million (£57 million) to sign a new contract. Page 25

Sweet news: Thorntons, the chocolate shop chain, will create 820 jobs in the next four years, opening 148 more shops. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 5.6 points to close at 5305.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 100.2 to 100.5 after a rise from \$1.6138 to \$1.6235 and from DM2.8427 to DM2.8479. Page 28

Football: Les Ferdinand, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, has withdrawn from England's squad for the World Cup qualifying match against Italy with a stomach muscle strain. Page 48

Golf: Phil Mickelson, the American Ryder Cup player, has been seeded fifth for the Toyota World Match Play Championship, three places lower than he expected. Page 48

Cricket: Austin Robertson, the agent for Shane Warne, has assured the three English counties vying for the Australian leg spinner that he will sign for one of them. Page 42

Racing: My Emma, who had two group one successes including a Yorkshire Oaks victory, has been retired. Page 43

Adults only: Choreographer David Bintley explains why his new work for Birmingham Royal Ballet, *Edward II*, is not suitable viewing for children. Page 16

Rising star: Five years ago dancer Shi Ning Liu left China to take up a Royal Ballet School scholarship. Now, at 23, he is a regular soloist with the company. Page 16

Nurs on the run: Glyndebourne's touring arm opens its autumn season with the popular success of the summer, Jérôme Savary's rabelais staging of Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*. Page 16Home win: Actor Gary Oldman talks about his debut as a film director on *Ni by Mouth*, a semi-autobiographical tale of drink, drugs and violence. Page 17

Facing despair: Kiefer Kizil tells Sandra Parsons why he felt he had to sleep with his wife's sister, Jacqueline du Pré. Page 14

Great gambler: The final extract from Anthony Seldon's book reveals why John Major put his premiership on the line. Page 15

Nigel's Lawson: Family feminism and Cold War confusion. Page 15

Asking Auntie: The BBC is 75 next week: Raymond Stoddy has some awkward questions. Page 22

Degree of doubt: Media studies appear glamorous, but do students use the degree to avoid local newspaper training? Page 23

Stately row: Michael Wade's home is Country House of the Year, but a conservation group opposes his restoration plans. Page 37

Blair, with his film-star charisma and iron will, could make even Margaret Thatcher jealous — *Moskovsky Komsolets*Blair promised to back Russia above all in the preparation of the G8 summit which he will chair — *Kommersant-Daily*Blair's appearance in a popular radio soap opera was a brilliant coup by his image-makers — *Cevodnya*

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

FILMS
An elaborate practical joke? Geoff Brown on *The Game*, starring Michael Douglas

BOOKS
Claire Bloom reviews Joan Sutherland's story; Hardy Amies considers what makes men stylish

Preview: How Hitler decided on the Holocaust. The Nazis — a Warning From History (BBC2, 9pm) **Review: Matthew Bond cannot escape Carol Vorderman**.....Pages 46, 47

Two cheers

The Conservatives need to approach their new constitution with the maximum degree of radicalism. Democracy should be their consistent watchword. Page 19

Wired for pounds

In school computerisation, Tony Blair is in a strong bargaining position. There is no need for him to ingratiate himself with hardware and software providers: he can drive a tough deal. Page 19

Old warhorse

Scholars will now have to rethink their accepted notion of a Saxon warlord riding into battle on a pony, dismounting to fight and remounting to ride away. Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

The May election is still misread: it was a huge confidence trick played on the electorate by the British constitution. Page 18

ALAN COREN

I am wondering how my Auntie Ann would have fared in a year turret over the Ruhr. Page 18

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

Other people's poems are like other people's dreams: almost always tedious and embarrassing. Page 18

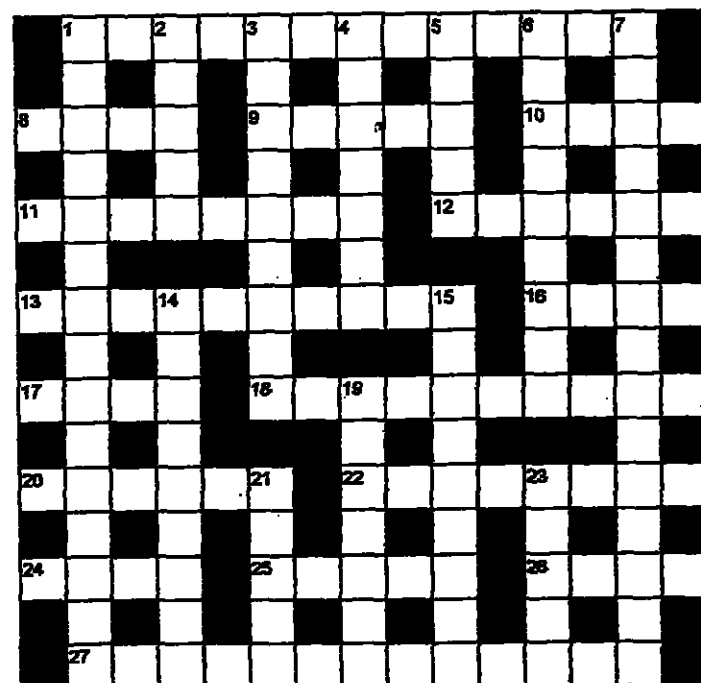
SIMON BARNES

A sign at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida by one of the courts says: No Parents. I wonder who derives more pleasure from this sign — the coaches, or the children? I suspect the children, but it must be a close run thing. Page 42

George Urban, Cold War commentator and adviser; Philip Turner, sculptor; Andrew Keir, actor.....Page 21

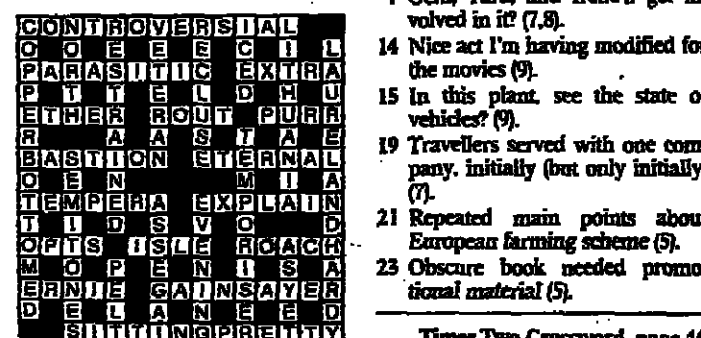
Need for Tory fresh start; right to drive; rethink on school French; art and censorship; Morton and Red Cross; cancer trials.....Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,605



- ACROSS**
- Representing old times, produce such theatrical gear? (6,7).
 - New Suffolk author? (4).
 - It's a fantasy, doctor, directing Mac West? (5).
 - Long time in parliament? (4).
 - Underground worker adopting wrong headgear supplier? (6).
 - Swindle securing Queen's pearls, perhaps? (6).
 - Self-obsessed chap grabbing PEP money? (10).
 - Unemployed, one gets regular payment, none the less? (4).
 - What's bad about good omen? (4).
 - Fruit presented by father of Yates's hero? (10).
 - Poet setting merry hearts dancing? (6).
- DOWN**
- Taking risks on the field when opponents are shooting? (7,4).
 - Insurgent displaying some more belligerence? (5).
 - Regulation guns bagging one? (9).
 - Bank, one specialising in vaults? (7).
 - Elite British force surrounding second island? (5).
 - Being governed by one's ancestors leads to stress? (9).
 - Gen. Tara, and Irene! get involved in it? (7,8).
 - Nice act I'm having modified for the movies? (9).
 - In this plant, see the state of vehicles? (9).
 - Travellers served with one company, initially (but only initially)? (7).
 - Repeated main points about European farming scheme? (5).
 - Obscure book needed promotional material? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,604



GOING, GOING, GONE
They said they would and they have...
given away your private health...
insurance tax relief. Time to look at...
WPA's Senior Options... four ways...
to afford healthcare cover.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

For Western: All regions 0330 444 010
For London: All regions 0330 444 010
For the South: All regions 0330 444 010
For the North: All regions 0330 444 010
For the Midlands: All regions 0330 444 010
For the East: All regions 0330 444 010
For the West: All regions 0330 444 010
For the South: All regions 0330 444 010
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For the West: All regions 0330 444 010

Weather by Fax

For Western: All regions 0330 444 010
For London: All regions 0330 444 010
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World City Weather

For Western: All regions 0330 444 010
For London: All regions 0330 444 010
For the South: All regions 0330 444 010
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Car reports by fax

For Western: All regions 0330 444 010
For London: All regions 0330 444 010
For the South: All regions 0330 444 010
For the North: All regions 0330 444 010
For the Midlands: All regions 0330 444 010
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For the West: All regions 0330 444 010

Sun rise: 7.13 am Sun set: 6.23 pm

Moon sets: 10.48 pm Moon rises: 7.44 pm

First quarter tomorrow: London 6.23 pm to 7.14 am Bristol 6.30 pm to 7.24 am

March equinox: 6.29 pm to 7.25 am Perthshire 6.46 pm to 7.35 am

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.0% of the new material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

GOING, GOING, GONE

They said they would and they have...
given away your private health...
insurance tax relief. Time to look at...
WPA's Senior Options... four ways...
to afford healthcare cover.

WPA

Western Provident Association
FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

General: England and Wales mostly dry at first, but there will already be showers in extreme south and along western coasts.

Wet, windy weather will sweep into South West through morning, and move north across rest of England and Wales in afternoon. Cloud to English Channel, gales likely. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland quite cool with sunny spells and showers, the showers merging in NW Scotland. Eastern Scotland mainly dry and bright, cloudy in Irish Republic with showers in south.

Tonight, western and northern Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers. Wales and southwest and north England will soon become dry. Heavy rain over the rest of England will move away southwards with strong winds decreasing.

London, SE, Cent S, SW England, E Anglia, Channel Isles: Heavy rain and strong SW winds. Gales near the coast, and stormy at sea. Max 16C (64F).

Midlands, S Wales: Rain by midday, heavy for a while. Freshening SW wind. Max 16C (64F).

E Ang, Cent N England, N Wales: Sunny spells, cloudier later. Rain later. Moderate S to SW wind. Max 16C (64F).

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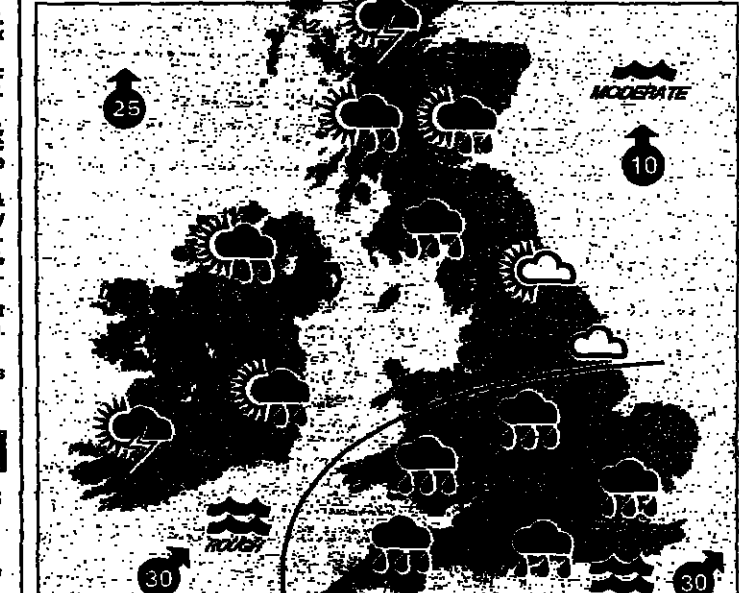
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Changes to chart below from noon: low S cells, northwest towards Newcastle, Sea, etc. Low G sweeps east, deepens late in the period. Low 2 quickly runs across central England, slowly deepens



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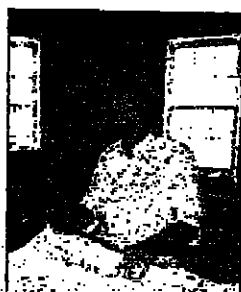
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 1997

Swift seeks to avoid railway battle

By CARL MORTSHED

JOHN SWIFT, the Rail Regulator, yesterday promised that plans to introduce competition on the railways in 1999 would not lead to a pitched battle between rival operators. The Office of the Rail Regulator is publishing a consultation document, seeking views from the rail industry and consumers, on its plans to allow access to competing operators on routes where franchisees currently enjoy a monopoly. The plan is to allow rival train services access to network routes from April 1999, with full competition from 2002. The changes would mean operators being invited to nominate routes on which they required protection against competitors, while other routes would receive no protection. New entrants on protected routes would be allowed access to up to 20 per cent of available revenue. Mr Swift said that competition would bring pressure to introduce new products and services and to cut costs. "Passengers could reasonably expect to see the emergence of more attractive fare packages, higher frequencies of service on popular routes and new direct services," he said. Mr Swift said his role

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was to ensure that competition developed in the public interest. He sought to quell fears that competition would lead to the predatory practices adopted by rival bus operators, which have led to repeated intervention by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. "Before relaxing the constraints on competition, I would need to be satisfied that adequate controls were available to prevent the emergence of rail wars-type competition, and to ensure that network benefits were maintained," he said. New train operators will be expected to adhere to the same licence conditions as existing franchisees, providing integrated ticketing and timetabling with the rest of the network. An ORR spokesman said the finances of new train operators would be scrutinised. He said: "We would have to satisfy ourselves of the status of the operator. One of the duties of the regulator is to see what the financial impact of competition will be on the franchisee." Mr Swift said the original decision to guard franchisees from competition was due to uncertainty in 1994 as to whether firms would bid for franchises facing free competition.



Sweet talk: Roger Paffard, left, Thorntons' chief executive, and Jonathan Fellows, finance director, celebrating yesterday's announcement of fatter profits

Inflation casts doubt on Labour spending plans

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

A SURPRISE rise in the rate of inflation in September will increase costs to the social security budget next year and jeopardise the Government's spending plans, analysts said yesterday. Headline inflation climbed from 3.5 per cent in August to 3.6 per cent — the highest level for two years. The September inflation figures are used by the Government to calculate annual increases in social security benefit levels, including state pensions and the jobseeker's allowance. As a result, the total benefits

bill will increase by £2 billion in 1998-99 — an estimated £500 million more than the Government had previously anticipated. The Treasury confirmed yesterday that it would use cash from the £5 billion contingency reserve to help make up the shortfall. But Chris Giles, programme co-ordinator at the Institute of Fiscal Studies, said that with nearly half of next year's fund already allocated in the July Budget for extra public spending, the Government will face a tough task sticking to its spending targets. "The Government is in deep trouble with next year's contingency reserve," Mr Giles said. "There are

worries over the number of health authority trusts wanting a deficit and the public pay round is still to come." Economists gave warning that the latest rise in inflation could also have an adverse effect on wage inflation, as September is a key reference point for many companies. Higher than expected private sector deals would only increase the pressure on the Government to make improved public sector settlements when the pay round is concluded in February. Leading benefits, such as the state pension, are tied to the headline rate of inflation. The Department of Social Security said a couple's state

pension will consequently rise from £99.80 to £103.40 from next April. Child Benefit will increase by £1.45 per week for the first child and £0.30 per week for the second child. But means-tested benefits, such as the jobseeker's allowance and income support, will increase by only 2.4 per cent — compared with 2.6 per cent last year — as the Government uses a different measure of inflation, one that excludes some housing costs to calculate the annual rise. Economists said that the September increase in mortgage rates, after August's base rate rise, was the main reason for higher inflation. But falls in fuel and motoring costs helped

the Government's target measure of inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, to fall from 2.8 per cent to 2.7 per cent in September. Clothing and footwear prices also fell from 1.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent while household goods inflation stood at 0.9 per cent. Economists said that the fall in underlying inflation provided further reason for the Bank of England not to raise rates at the end of this month's monetary meeting, which begins today. Separate data from the Confederation of British Industry showed financial service sector growth slowing to its lowest level since March 1996 in the last three months.

Thorntons to open 148 shops in four years

By PAUL DURMAN

THORNTONS, the chocolate shops chain, is to create 820 jobs over the next four years, opening 148 more shops and lifting the output of its Derbyshire factory. The new initiatives will add £40 million to the cost of the "revolution" that Thorntons has embarked upon since Roger Paffard became chief executive last year. The company has already spent £18 million of a £51 million plan to revamp and resite its 300 existing shops. Thorntons has switched its focus from manufacturing to retailing. Mr Paffard once doubted whether Thorntons should continue in manufacturing but a review has persuaded him the company is the only possible maker of 70 per cent of its product lines. So £35 million is being spent to improve its Thorton Park site. Thorntons is planning additional shops because it believes it can operate profitably from 90 smaller towns that it had previously ruled out, and from the Republic of Ireland, from factory shops and from a second outlet in the largest shopping centres. The increased investment will create 820 retail jobs and another 300 in manufacturing. The company reported annual pre-tax profits of £11.5 million, 31.5 per cent up on last year's underlying total. Sales were 19 per cent ahead, at £109.2 million, while earnings climbed by more than half, to 13.32p a share. A final dividend of 4.2p a share, due November 28, will increase the total by 10.4 per cent, to 5.85p. Like-for-like sales from Thornton-owned shops rose 12.9 per cent, driven by substantial increases from the refitted and resited shops.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5305.6	(+5.6)
Yield	3.07%	
FTSE All share	2483.45	(+3.20)
Nikkei	17511.19	(-313.55)
New York		
Dow Jones	8145.89	(+15.67)
S&P Composite	979.62	(+5.50)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)
Yield	6.34%	(6.28%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt future (Dec)	120%	(120%)

STERLING		
New York	1.6205	(1.6155)
London		
\$	1.6205	(1.6130)
DM	2.8474	(2.8423)
FF	9.5721	(9.5559)
SP	2.3445	(2.3422)
Yen	197.85	(196.30)
£ Index	100.5	(100.2)

DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.7537	(1.7580)
FF	5.8925	(5.9095)
SP	1.4445	(1.4475)
Yen	121.55	(121.06)
£ Index	104.9	(105.1)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brut 15-day (Dec)	\$20.70	(\$20.50)

GOLD		
London close	\$331.65	(\$332.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Challenge

IJB Sports will open its 200th store next month and hopes for a chain of 700 branches across Britain. David Whelan, chairman, hopes to see the chain grow to 500 in town and 200 out of town. Page 27, Tempos 28

Windfalls

About 170,000 British policyholders of the Australian Mutual Provident Society will get free shares worth about £3,000 on average when the insurer and fund manager floats in Australia next year. Page 26

Occidental chief to be paid \$95m

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

RAY IRANI, chairman of Occidental Petroleum, will be paid \$95 million (£57 million) to rip up his old contract and sign a new one. The cash payment is believed to be among the biggest of its kind in US corporate history. Occidental is rewriting Mr Irani's contract because its lavish provisions were threatening the oil group's long-term financial health. The payoff will reduce Occidental's quarterly earnings by 28 per cent, according to documents filed at the Securities and Exchange Commission. The group, which said it was advised by independent lawyers, thought it more prudent to take the one-off charge now rather than to continue Mr Irani's rolling seven-year contract, renewed on a daily basis. Mr Irani, 62, was being paid an annual salary of \$1.9 million and a guaranteed

bonus of not less than 60 per cent of the salary. Since he started the job in 1990, he has also been paid at least \$1.9 million in restricted stock per year and an annual grant of stock options worth more than \$2 million. If Occidental was taken over, Mr Irani would have received seven annual salaries plus seven years of stock and options. The new contract is modest in comparison. Mr Irani will be paid \$1.2 million annually over a fixed five-year term and he will no longer get a guaranteed minimum of stocks and options. Instead, his various bonuses will, for the first time, be directly related to performance. The takeover payoff clause has been scrapped and so has a lifetime retirement benefit. Under his stewardship, Occidental's returns on capital were half of those of similarly ranked companies.

Strong gets new role at WorldCom

LIAM STRONG, who stepped down as chief executive of Sears in April with a pay-off of £465,000, has waived the right to further substantial payments by accepting a job with WorldCom, the US telecoms group bidding for MCI (Jon Ashworth writes). Mr Strong was due to receive more money next year under the terms of his severance package — provided he did not take a new job. He is in line for substantial performance-related payments in his new role as chief executive of WorldCom International. Koor/Ferry International, the executive search firm, is thought to have handled the appointment of Mr Strong, who will work alongside Colin Williams, chairman of WorldCom International, which has 1,500 employees worldwide. Commentary, page 29

Chris Evans bids for Talk Radio

By CHRIS AYRES

CHRIS EVANS, the radio and television presenter, has made a bid for Talk Radio, the struggling national radio station. Mr Evans has been in discussions with the loss-making station through his media company, Ginger Productions, for three months. Talk Radio is guaranteed a licence to broadcast a national digital radio service from next year. Ginger could be forced to pay up to £90 million for Talk Radio, which broadcasts on medium wave only and has an estimated 2.3 million listeners at peak times. Talk Radio's largest shareholder is CLT, one of the world's biggest media groups, which also holds a stake in Channel 5 and Atlantic 252. Another large stake is held by MVI, a media conferencing business which has interests in Teletext. MVI indicated that it wanted to sell

its shares in Talk Radio earlier this year. At the weekend Mr Evans signed a ten-week contract to present his own breakfast show for Virgin Radio, the rival station, for an estimated £1.3 million. Ginger also receives about £13 million from Channel Four to produce *JTF Friday*, a show presented by Mr Evans. John Revell, head of Ginger's radio division and a co-presenter of Mr Evans's breakfast show — known to listeners as "Johnny Boy" — said: "We are some way down the road with the negotiations and are still having lots of conversations with them. We see a real opportunity with the station because it is guaranteed to get a digital licence. At the moment, it's not a particularly successful business. We would like to see it move towards sport and comedy."

BT deal gives schools cheaper access to Net

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



The Net will cost schools £1 a pupil

SCHOOLS are to get all-day access to the Internet for less than £1 per pupil per year after Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, forced BT to reduce its charges. The new agreement gives each of the country's 32,000 schools ten hours of daily access for £790 per year, on high-speed lines with no connection charges. A comparable charge for business use would be about £2,000. On standard phone lines BT will offer access for £445 per year plus a £100 connection charge. Having rented a line from BT

schools can link up to the Internet provider of their choice. Yesterday's deal follows months of wrangling between Ofcom and BT. Initially BT offered three hours' access for £790 for digital access through ISDN2 lines, which are speedier and allow more interaction than standard phone lines. Don Cruickshank, the regulator, said he hoped that competitive pressure could lower BT's prices further. Cable companies are offering schools a £600-per-year Internet deal. BT can lower its prices to compete to a floor of £631. As the

dominant supplier, BT's prices are held higher than its smaller rivals so that they may compete effectively. It is hoped that the deal will trigger a big switch by schools on to the Internet. At present only 6,000 schools have links, with 4,000 of those using cable companies. BT said: "These innovative prices should help to transform the level of take-up of information and communications technology in schools throughout the UK." Mr Cruickshank said: "This agreement delivers schools the affordable, predictable prices that

they have been asking for." The protracted talks between the regulator and the industry mean that the cheaper prices will not take effect until the spring term next year. Last month — the start of the academic year — had been the planned starting date. Ofcom's education taskforce will now look at other areas where cheap access may be granted. These will include libraries, further education colleges and Citizens Advice Bureaux. Net's mixed bag, page 29



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AMP float windfall worth £3,000

By George Sivell

AROUND 170,000 British policyholders of the Australian Mutual Provident Society will get free shares worth about £3,000 on average when Australia's largest insurer and fund manager floats on the Australian and New Zealand stock exchanges next year.

The shares are due to be allocated in January and the listing is planned to take effect in the middle of 1998, valuing the mutual insurer at A\$9.4 billion or £4.2 billion.

The formal name will change to AMP Limited on flotation and 1.07 billion free shares will be given to the membership of 1.8 million. The shares were given a current value by AMP of A\$8.81 to A\$10.37 each.

AMP owns Pearl insurance company in Britain and recently failed to take over Scottish Amicable. AMP says that it will continue to pursue its acquisition strategy and that if there are any developments before the listing takes effect members will be informed. Pearl policyholders will not get a payout because Pearl was already stock market-listed when it was taken over by AMP in 1989.

A roadshow is planned for London on November 3 and in Glasgow on November 5.

ahead of the deadline for the receipt of votes on November 18 and a general meeting in Sydney on November 20.

Policyholders are expected to receive at least 100 shares under a complex formula relating to the size and lifespan of their investments, with some receiving upwards of 1,845 shares for a life insurance policy over 30 years.

Documents issued by AMP also showed the float should prove profitable for George Trumbull, its American-born managing director, who he stands to receive up to one million free AMP shares between listing and the end of 2000 when his contract expires.

Mr Trumbull, who joined AMP in 1994 when the 149-year-old group was struggling with difficult investment markets at home and abroad, is already believed to be the highest-paid businessman in Australia with a 1996 salary reported to be about A\$3 million (£1.33 million).

AMP has more than A\$100 billion of funds under management. Mr Trumbull said at the very least AMP would achieve steady profits in 1997, citing very healthy equity markets in Australia and the United States in particular.



Helen Liddell, centre, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, meeting two victims of pensions mis-selling, Stella Gardner, left, and Christine Culbert

Minister meets pension victims

By Gavin Lumsden

AFTER five months of haranguing the pension industry for its slow progress in clearing up its mis-selling scandal, Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday met two victims who have finally been compensated.

Christine Culbert, 49, and Stella Gardner, 52, told the minister of their years of frustration and anxiety in waiting for settlement from Guardian Financial Services and Abbey Life, from whom they wrongly bought personal pensions in the late 1980s. Ms

Culbert, a school administrative assistant in London, was persuaded not to join her local authority scheme. Ms Gardner, a home care officer in Poole, Dorset, left a scheme on the advice from an Abbey representative. Both have been reinstated after action by the GMB union.

Mrs Liddell said: "This is the human face of pensions mis-selling. The statistics tell a grim tale, but cannot give a true picture of just how much distress is caused. However, at last, it is heartening to meet people who have taken their complaints forward and —

finally — received the redress they deserve."

However, new Treasury figures showed that 11 pension firms have still to resolve more than a quarter of their priority cases. These include Friends Provident, which was fined £450,000 by the Personal Investment Authority last week, and Gan Life and Sun Life of Canada. Only five had settled more than half their caseload. A total of 500,000 priority cases have been identified, with another potential 1.5 million non-priority cases still to be dealt with. Mrs Liddell said that she would

announce soon what sanction she would take against firms that failed to speed up their reviews.

The Association of British Insurers said that pension companies had resolved 64 per cent of the most urgent cases, a sharp increase on last month. Companies have to settle 90 per cent of these cases to avoid fines by the PIA.

However, the PIA criticised the ABI for making too much of the number of people excluded from the review.

Even so, ABI data suggested Prudential, Royal & Sun Alliance and Albany Life may have missed the PIA deadline.

Nortel to tap into high-tech

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

NORTHERN TELECOM (Nortel), the Canadian telecommunications manufacturing group, will today give details of what it claims is a technological breakthrough that will allow Internet data to travel along conventional domestic electricity wires.

The company says that the technology "has the potential to stimulate major growth in Internet use, and will change the future for electricity utilities". It has been successfully trialled and is ready for the mass market.

It is believed that the system will be able to deliver services at ten times the speed of most PC modems. Increasingly, however, the Internet is likely to carry sound, with full motion video also on the way, and it is not clear whether the Nortel system can carry sound or video signals. If it can, the system would make the electricity wire a more central competitor for existing telecommunications companies.

The obvious advantage of such a system is that electricity companies have an existing wire into virtually every home in the country.

A number of power companies, including Energis, have been working with Nortel on field trials in a number of UK homes over the past year.

Net's mixed bag, page 29

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Eyecare slumps by a third in first half

EYECARE PRODUCTS, the spectacle frame maker that has lost its chief executive and more than half its value in the past year, has reported interim pre-tax profits down a third at £1.5 million. Eyecare, which owns the Foster Grant sunglasses brand, expects a stronger second half after "very encouraging" sales over the past three months.

The company said it achieved modest growth in sales in the six months to June 30 but reported that turnover from L'AMY, its French business, was reduced by the strength of sterling. This cut first-half sales by 7 per cent to £32.8 million. Eyecare is not paying an interim dividend. It paid 0.57p a share last year. Martin Franklin, chairman, said new initiatives were starting to pay dividends and he expects this momentum to be continued next year.

Pentex reserves rise

PENTEX, the oil and gas group with interests in UK on-shore exploration, said that its reserves had increased five-fold through its 40 per cent interest in Sibir Energy, an AIM-listed oil exploration company with assets in Siberia. Pentex suffered a pre-tax loss of £38 million in the year to June 30, due to an exceptional write-off of £43 million after tax changes in November's Budget forced it to sell the Melrose Partnership, removing the largest element of Pentex's profitability. The dividend for the year is 0.2p per share.

UK water prices up 4%

BUSINESS is picking up the bill for inefficiency in the water industry, a study of world water prices has shown after Britain recorded the second-highest percentage rise. National Utility Services said water prices in the UK rose by an average 4 per cent in the year to July, ranking the country as the fifth most expensive for water. NUS said the main causes of the price rise were repeated droughts and leakages. Andrew Johns, NUS director, said repairs "will inevitably mean even higher prices for businesses" who are unable to access alternative supplies.

Construction complains

THE CONSTRUCTION Confederation has joined business objections to the Government's plans to introduce a statutory right of interest on overdue accounts. It said the plans were "impracticable" and that new legislation, planned for next year, would be unworkable. "It is not interest that small companies require, but the means to acquire a quick, fair, enforceable and cheap method of obtaining judgment for outstanding sums," the confederation said in a submission to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Active funds ahead

ACTIVELY managed pension funds again outperformed those tracking an index last year, according to analysis from the specialist WM Company. On average, the active managers have beaten the index-trailers in three out of the past five years. The margin is so slim, however, that it is roughly equal to the charges imposed by investment managers. In 1996, index funds returned an average 16.6 per cent, the FTSE All-Share index 16.7 per cent and the average actively managed fund 16.8 per cent. Commentary, page 27

BA hopeful on alliance

BRITISH AIRWAYS said it remained optimistic about its planned alliance with American Airlines yesterday, despite indications from Brussels that a decision on the tie-up was likely to be pushed back to next year. Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, who is assessing the deal with UK and US regulators, said the airlines had delayed the inquiry by questioning the competence of his office. The inquiry has dragged on for 15 months, but Mr Van Miert was hopeful of substantial progress in the coming weeks.

Bank		Bank		Bank		Bank	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.35	Malta	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.885	0.885
Austria Sch	21.00	Netherlands Gld	2.388	2.388	2.388	2.388	2.388
Belgium Fr	67.01	New Zealand \$	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48
Denmark Kr	2.46	Portugal Esc	202.48	202.48	202.48	202.48	202.48
Cyprus Cyp	0.887	S Africa Rand	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.30	6.30
Germany DM	11.43	Sweden Kr	201.78	201.78	201.78	201.78	201.78
Finland Mk	5.94	Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20
France Fr	10.05	Taiwan New	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Germany DM	3.01	USA \$	1.751	1.751	1.751	1.751	1.751
Greece Dr	478						
Hong Kong \$	13.40						
Ireland P	1.08						
Israel Sh	1.18						
Italy Lit	2072						
Japan Yen	112.25						

Notes for bank commission bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Interest rates apply to transfers of cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

Sears shareholders should not begrudge Liam Strong his shiny new job, since it will save them having to add to the £465,000 compensation they have already paid him for dispensing with his services.

With several suspicious timing, his elevation to the lofty title of chief executive of WorldCom International was confirmed on the day that bankers JP Morgan finally sent out their sales memorandum on the Sears shoe businesses, a document that is not likely to reflect well on Mr Strong's achievements.

The four chains to go under the hammer are far from thriving. Shoes were the major problem facing Sears when Mr Strong moved into the company and JP Morgan's tone was effectively demonstrated that this remained the case at the end of his reign. Now the company has conceded defeat and is resigned to costs of at least £150 million for quitting the sector.

Pessimists fear that the price could be considerably higher, for the rumours are that trading, particularly in the Dolcis business, is dire. In recent years Dolcis has changed its image more often than a super-model and the result has been confusion and alienation amongst customers and escalating losses.

Having closed 150 stores in the chain, what is left of the Shoe

Express operation may find more takers. The highest interest, however, is likely to be in Shoe City, the out-of-town chain that was a Strong innovation. But it is just as likely that the successful bidder will only be after its sites rather than its bright ideas.

The smallest of the businesses, the vaguely upmarket Cable & Co, has been eyed up by Nine West, the ambitious United States company, but is also said to have attracted the attentions of Mohamed Al Fayed. Al Fayed already owns the Kurt Geiger shoe business and had talked of floating it until a certain disillusionment with his sale of House of Fraser rather jaundiced the prospect. After his jolky diversification into publishing with *Punch*, the owner of Harrods may feel that shoes offer better returns.

But the market is tough: yesterday's inflation figures showed that clothing and footwear prices were actually lower in August than they were a year earlier, another factor likely to scale down the cheques to Sears. Such doubts continue to dog

the Sears share price, an eloquent reflection of the City's view of the management. Mr Strong has left such indignities behind him. He faces the happier prospect of living with a share price full of optimism, if little more. WorldCom apparently wants Mr Strong for his marketing skills. Sustaining this stratospheric level will put those to the test.

Rail rivals leave passengers behind

Rail competition was shelved to save the Tory Government money. There was little interest in the City or industry for taking on rail operating franchises. Potential bidders were more likely to be attracted by a protected monopoly, so that was put into the bulky package of concessions made to

COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

ensure that the railways were privatised before the election.

If the Tories had insisted on competition on the rails, there would have been little competition for franchises and subsidies would have mushroomed. Such stark realities lay behind the statesmanlike words of John Swift, the politically acute rail regulator, when he put off new competition — at least until 1999.

Mr Swift is now putting on another carefully judged exercise to review the issue. Would anyone like competition in 1999, even 2002, or should the whole idea be tactfully dropped?

In theory, even new Labour wants to convert as many franchises as possible back to British Rail when they expire or when laggards run out of cash. Anything that makes life harder should make more train operators give up. There is no

reason to think, however, that shunting rail back into the public sector is the policy at Number 10. Tony Blair could easily have scuppered the sale of Railtrack, kingpin of the system. He chose not to, leaving his opposition spokespersons to flail around in frustration. Mr Blair has not changed his mind, even if John Prescott occasionally dusts down Clare Short's plan to re-route subsidies through Railtrack and somehow reassert control.

If the Labour Government wants rail to stay in the private sector then it should be wary of anything that boosts subsidies, even such a "good thing" as competition. Train operators, by contrast, may now be more sympathetic, especially to the gentlemanly, all-holds-barred regime envisaged by Mr Swift. Competition can be bargained against extending the shorter

franchises. Operators have tried the argument that they cannot invest in new trains without more security, even though separate train-owning companies were set up to avoid just this dilemma. Bargaining longer contract security for competition would be more convincing, even if competition is likely to flourish only on paper.

Rivals neck to neck on pensions track

Fans and sceptics of index-tracking can find comfort in the latest analysis of pension fund performance from the WM Company. Just as the trackers gain ground, active managers are improving their performance. They won by a short head in 1996, making three wins in five years. But adding years when the trackers edged ahead, outperformance by active managers scarcely covered fees.

Passive management of pension funds' UK equity portfolios produced a combined annual return of 14.2 per cent over the past ten years, while stock-

pickers managed just 13.9 per cent. This is not the paradox it seems. Active management has two elements. One is picking the right markets, geographically or between shares and bonds. The other is picking the right stocks in those markets.

Few fund managers are as good at one as the other. On average, the WM figures suggest, they contribute more in top-down strategy than in bottom-up stock-picking. Instead of polarising between active and passive, pension funds are more likely in future to pick bits of each. This is as well. Index-trackerers deserve to gain some ground, but are ultimately parasitic. If they became too successful, they would destroy the efficient stock market processes on which they depend.

Helping hand

PARTNERSHIP is a fashionable concept. Never slow to spot a trend, it seems that Saatchi & Saatchi now wants to become partners with its customers, sharing in the development of brands rather than being mere admen. This would, of course, involve taking a share of the profits the brands generate. They might think of themselves as consultants. Good to see that the spirit of Maurice and Charles still lives on at the firm.

JJB Sports plans vast expansion as profits soar 97%

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JJB Sports is planning a vigorous expansion that will see it open its 200th store next month and could lead to a chain of 700 branches across the UK.

David Whelan, chairman of the sports clothing and equipment retailer, said he hoped to see the chain grow to 500 in-town and 200 out-of-town shops by expanding at a rate of 50 per year. The group has opened 32 stores so far this year, taking its total to 186 and store number 200 is due to open in Warrington at the end of November.

The company delivered better than expected half-year figures yesterday, with pre-tax profits leaping 97 per cent to £14.23 million. Its shares responded by rising 5p to 504p as analysts increased their full-year forecasts. Robert Miller at Dresdner Kleinwort

Benson shifted his forecast from £32 million to £34 million. Other analysts moved from below £30 million to about £33 million. Mr Miller said he was particularly impressed by the sales growth at JJB's superstores.

The company expects to have £11 million to £12 million cash at the end of this year and will increase capital expenditure next year as it enlarges its warehousing. But Mr Whelan, a former professional footballer for Blackburn Rovers whose family owns 54 per cent of the group, said: "If we get too much cash we may buy back some shares."

Mr Whelan was also confident about the ability of JJB Sports to increase sales of women's sportswear. New women's collections brought out by Reebok, Ellesse and Adidas could mean women's

wear growing to about 10 per cent of sales in the next year, he said. "It was hardly anything before; these women's collections have only come out in the last six months," he said. Clothing for children aged between two and ten years is also selling strongly, he said.

Like-for-like sales in the first half were 18 per cent ahead. In the second half the rate has slowed somewhat to 8 per cent, but the company said this was because of difficult comparisons with last year, which saw particularly strong trade on the back of Euro 96. The company will pay a sharply higher interim dividend of 2.25p (1.5p) on December 9 on the back of earnings per share of 10.55p (5.03p).

Tempus, page 28
City Diary, page 29

Pearson settles for \$25m

PEARSON, the media group, is paying the American Booksellers Association \$25 million (£15 million) to settle claims against Penguin Books (Oliver August writes).

Earlier this year Pearson took a £100 million charge to cover costs arising from the legal dispute over its US books subsidiary and payment of unauthorised discounts to booksellers. Avin Mark Domnitz, ABA director,

said: "The symbolic value of a payment being made by a publisher to independent booksellers cannot be lost on the industry."

The ABA said it ended a dispute over favourable terms "that only some Penguin customers received". Jerry Jacobs, an ABA lawyer, said: "This is by far the largest antitrust discrimination settlement ever in the over-60-year history of the antitrust discrimination laws."

Ikea takes Premier stake

IKEA, the Swedish furniture and property group, has taken a 29.9 per cent stake in Premier Land, the property investment company (Fraser Nelson writes).

Ikea is selling four of its Amsterdam office blocks to Premier Land for £6.93 million in shares and a 17 per cent share of rental income from the properties. Premier also said it was putting Union Group, its worst-per-

forming property portfolio, into administration after suffering a £3.45 million loss. It will retain three areas of business: the four Ikea offices, Amsterdam's Magna Plaza shopping centre and the Aviemore Centre in Scotland.

Ikea's Premier stake is now just below the 30 per cent threshold that would trigger a takeover bid for the whole company.

Cobham up 20% at half time

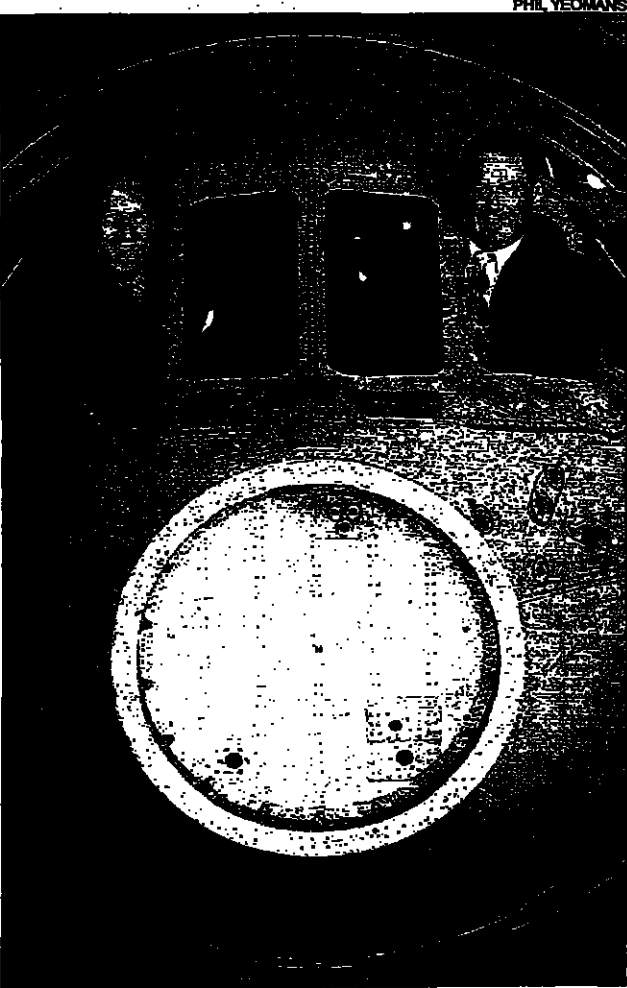
By ADAM JONES

COBHAM, the aerospace components and services supplier, lifted interim profits 20 per cent on the back of buoyant demand for new civil aircraft.

In the first half of this year, pre-tax profits were £24.9 million. Turnover was £151.1 million, up from £132 million in the first half of 1996.

The group's current order book is worth more than £600 million. This does not include £40 million of orders at the aerospace and marine division of ML Holdings, which Cobham bought for £37 million last month. Analysts are expecting the company to dispose of at least two of the non-core ML businesses acquired in the deal, with a decision likely this year.

Gordon Page, chief executive, said new contracts from ML could amount to £100 million. Small purchases are expected this year. The group, where Giles Irwin is finance director, will pay an interim dividend of 4.05p (3.5p) a share on December 12, from adjusted earnings of 18p (15.2p).



Giles Irwin, left, and Gordon Page in an RAF Nimrod

Mixed fortunes for News Corp in 'difficult year'

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

RUPERT MURDOCH, chairman of The News Corporation, has admitted to shareholders that the international media group has just had "a difficult year".

Mr Murdoch told investors at the annual meeting in Adelaide how the company had "raced ahead with partners into great ventures" but not all had worked out as expected, including one of the most ambitious, the satellite service for North America.

"It was decided halfway into that venture that discretion was the better part of valour and that perhaps we were

already five years too late in starting," said Mr Murdoch, who explained that News Corp had instead negotiated participation in another partnership, Primestar, the satellite service owned by leading cable companies.

Mr Murdoch said that in the UK, Sky News had become profitable, although its parent company, British Sky Broadcasting, would have a "flatish" year or two because of the cost of moving to digital satellite. News International, the subsidiary of News Corp that owns *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of BSkyB.

News Corp had also had a great deal of difficulty in its HarperCollins books division, but management had been changed and assets were written down, which "we felt were wrongly represented in our balance sheets". This year, Mr Murdoch said, HarperCollins would have revenues of well over \$700 million and is expected to be "moderately profitable".

Core businesses of film, TV and newspapers were all doing well. Newspapers in Australia were up 30 per cent in the first quarter and the UK titles were 20 per cent ahead.

Would you like a phone number that turns a complaining customer into a happy customer?



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So why not make it easy for people to complain?

Already, we're providing FreeCall 0800 numbers to many businesses to do just that. It's a simple way to enhance their quality of service.

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With so many options, it's important for us to know what you really want, so we can shape and develop our products to suit you.

That's why we're sending all of our business customers a national survey, to hear their views.

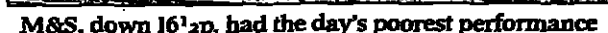
If you're not a customer, but would like to join in, simply call our survey hotline on FreeCall 0800 068 8060.

Or visit <http://www.cwcom.co.uk>



CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

Barclays starts to recover as BZW suitors appear



counter-offer from WorldCom. BT still has 10 per cent of MCI and must decide whether

Brokers say these gains have been stimulated by

Worst hit were short-dated issues with a five-year coupon

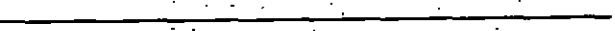
J Halstead	222 ¹ p (+10 ¹ p)
Moss Bros	274 ¹ p (+12 ¹ p)
Cosalt	222 ¹ p (+8 ¹ p)
Kewitt Sys	577p (+20 ¹ p)
Dorling Kind	305p (+10 ¹ p)

share price since the beginning of last year. After years of underperformance from Thorntons, Mr Paffard cuts a dooming figure.

Cobham, whose aircraft interests include refuelling systems, antennae and a joint

sector too, and the range of products is set to grow. However, on a prospective p/e of about 22 for the full year, most of the upside is

Moreover, sports retailers will soon be fighting each



DOLLAR RATES	
Australia	1.5802-1.5811
Austria	12.30-12.31
Belgium (Com)	36.09-36.11
Canada	1.3730-1.3733
Denmark	5.6581-5.6584

	Oct 7 midday	Oct 6 close
AMP Inc	54 1/2	53 1/2
AMR Corp	115 1/2	116 1/2

	Oct 7 midday	Oct 6 close		Oct 7 midday	Oct 6 close
26 1/2	25 1/2		Owens Corning	36 1/2	36 1/2
37 1/2	37 1/2		PPG Industries	60 1/2	60 1/2

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)	38%	30% ¹⁶	Lines 2-7%	28%	- 1%	6.56
	58% ²²	49% ²⁷	Canada 6%	58% ²²	+ 1%	6.86

LIFE OPTIONS

2523	600	19	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
2524	600	19	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

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125	50	48	52	78	1	12	16	(234)	340	6	13	19	12	16	21	(131)	140	4	7	10	11	12	16
(164)	650	8	3	43	11	31	36	P80	650	55	73	79	4	11	20	Temple	330	19	26	35	8	14	18

(7483)	503	3%	24	27	19	31%	41	5350	30	180%	230%	272	462	59	123%	152%	170	236
Smk Bch	800	15%	48%	61	6%	30%	41	5350	61%	151	205%	243	—	81%	145	175	197%	—

	Jun 98	9941
26-1		

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7% Low 6% Week fixed: 7%

Building Society CDs	7yr7.5	7yr7.25	7yr7.0	7yr6.75	7yr6.5
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GOI DIRECTORIES METALS (Bainbridge Co.)

Make Model	Year	Class	1 month	2 month
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Paris	93509-5181	93818-2371	3-33-81	4-1-81
Stockholm	12-154-12-235	12-210-12-235	4-81	4-81

Amgen	48%	47%	Gen Dynamics	88	87%	Provident	40%	40%
Amoco	97%	97%	Gen Electric	77	70	Pub Serv E & G	26%	26%

New Zealand dollar	2.5400-2.5443	BankAmerica	80% 80%	Heinz Foods	54% 56%	Sara Lee Corp	52% 52%
Pakistan rupee	63.95Buy	Bank of NY	51% 53%	Hewlett Packard	70 70%	Schering Plough	33% 34%

Abbey Nrl	1,600	Lucas Vanny	2,800	Barstow Vag	30	30	IBM Corp	44	42	Supervalu	39	35
Alliance & Lark	2,200	Maris Spr	1,400	Burlington Ntn	96	96	IBM	105	104	Synovus Ptn	47	23
				Carlisle Corp	11	11						

Bass	1,500	Rank Group	1,100	Caucary	130%	130%	Louisiana Pac	24%	24%	Timken	39%	39%
Bjilton	2,300	Reckitt Col	842	Choro	74%	73%	MCI Comm	39%	39%	Torchmark	40%	41%

EMI	2,100	Syn Trans	517	Cable Credit	38, 38	Microsoft	135, 135	Unilever NV	222, 222
Energy Gp	340	Shell Trans	22,900	Comstar Finl	48, 47	Minnesota Mfg	95, 95	Union Camp	222, 222

Days	3.00	Voulture	3.00	Energy	45	45	Norfolk S'm	102	102	Whisman	27	27
ICI	430	Whitbread	1,400	Duke Power	50	50	Nehr State Pwr	50	50	Winn Dixie	37	37
	1.00		1.00	Dun & Bradstreet	50	50						

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EMU adds rate rise kick to the cocktail

Until the single currency became a live issue on the British political scene, the meeting of the Bank of England monetary policy committee today and tomorrow was destined to be a non-event. The pause in raising rates that the Bank had indicated would surely persist until its November meeting, soon before its next inflation report.

However, the debate now raging about the Government's intention towards European economic and monetary union means that this week's meeting is a closer call. As soon as the *Financial Times* reported that the Cabinet was warning to EMU, and may even signal its intention to join the euro as soon as possible after 1999, long bond yields and sterling slid. Shares soared into new territory.

This has not only meant a burst of asset price inflation, but also a

clear loosening of monetary policy at a time when the Bank is concerned about overheating. The in-house view of the Bank now has to be tempered by the influence of outside appointees to the MPC — although it is yet to be seen whether they turn out to be rebels — but it is a good bet that Eddie George's men may now be itching to raise rates.

And they are probably right. Sterling and long-term interest rates are likely to be kept firmly on a gentle downward path because the EMU issue will not go away.

Everybody — except arguably Robin Cook — sees an advantage in playing the EMU card little and often. Gordon Brown probably

genuinely wants to see Britain join a single currency and, in the meantime, hitting at such forbidden desires is a useful tool in bringing the pound down to a more competitive level.

Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson, masters of the great political moment, want to make a success of the British presidency of the European Union next year when the crucial decisions about who joins and at what rates are taken. It was never going to be easy to make a splash of the presidency while being hostile to their European colleagues. So, at least for the next nine months, and in spite of opinion polls saying the British public is hostile to handing eco-

nomics policy to Frankfurt, Downing Street is likely to make cooing noises to its European partners. It doesn't really matter, for the narrow purposes of the Bank's current deliberations, whether the Government is thinking about

late 1999 or 2000 or even 2002 (and it probably doesn't know itself). The perception is now firmly entrenched in the financial markets that something is afoot, and they will trade accordingly.

This, apart from all other considerations about the long-term of the economic upswing, building society windfalls and the rest, puts pressure on the Bank to push up short-term rates. Convergence plays will ensure that the pound and long-term yields continue to fall, if only relatively gently if the spin doctors manage to fine-tune EMU speculation to ember, rather than blaze, proportions. However, the convergence, in itself, will be seen to make Britain's entry into

EMU more feasible and so reinforce the convergence trend.

On any eventual entry into the single currency, the Bank would have to swap its probably still-high short rates for the European Central Bank's probably low rates, and there is a real risk of a big boost to British domestic demand that could not be counteracted by tighter money. Albert Edwards, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, calls this the "euro bubble".

All the more reason, then, for the Bank to bear down against any inflationary pressures now. The MPC may not move this week but, in spite of some fears of an incipient economic slowdown in

some quarters of the City, the argument for a move in November seems compelling. This is not likely to worry the Chancellor. Convergence suits him if he wants Britain in EMU sooner rather than later, and higher short-term rates are a good trade for lower long-term ones because this will simultaneously bear down on consumers but help exporters.

All the leaking from one of the leakiest governments in living memory has probably had the desired effect, whether it has been changing the direction of the financial markets or smoothing the way for Britain's EU presidency. However, the corollary of this masterly news management (if it has been as deliberate as some suspect) is that mortgage rates will be higher than they would have been without a drop of EMU in the economic cocktail.

Net's mixed bag of selling opportunities

Technophobes will be delighted that instead of bringing about the demise of the humble book, the Internet has sparked a trade war between rival online booksellers.

The market for the printed word has become the first to establish itself on the Internet in such a dramatic way, with Barnes & Noble, the world's largest bookseller, and Microsoft, the software giant, teaming up yesterday to produce an aggressive online sales strategy.

Many other markets are set to follow, with music, groceries, cars and even property now being traded on the Internet in the United States. Graham Waller, chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, the cable and telecommunications giant, said last week that he expects consumers to double their annual spending on the Internet to £50 billion within the next twelve months.

Richard Hyman of Verdict, the market research company, says: "There can never before have been a new distribution channel to have threatened to change the way we shop on the scale of the Internet. If the resources being invested by retailers is any yardstick, the companies who will be most affected certainly think that this is a medium they cannot afford to ignore."

Trade on the Internet will be mainly based on the use of credit cards, with consumers browsing through product information online before placing their order, along with their card details, on a company's web site. The product will then be delivered through the post. Internet experts say that this kind of trade allows consumers to make much more informed decisions, without having to deal with inept or aggressive sales assistants. It also gives consumers more time to do what they want, rather than having to waste time shopping for mundane products.

A survey by Verdict, which is published today, shows that three quarters of Internet shoppers enjoy buying goods online, while 60 per cent say that it is more convenient than conventional shopping. Nearly half think that it is more cost-effective, while just over 40 per cent believe that it is easier to find what they want on the Internet than on the high street.

The online sales strategy of Barnes & Noble could provide a blueprint for many other retailers. The company's ex-

Online bookselling flourishes but, in the UK, Internet marketing is in its infancy, says Chris Ayres

clusive agreement with Microsoft allows it to provide book-selling services on its most frequently visited Web sites. These will include MSNBC, the news service, Expedia, the travel site, and Microsoft Investor, the personal finance site. Although details of the agreement have not been released yet, the two companies will share profits from the joint venture, which will immediately open up a market of 2.1 million consumers to Barnes & Noble.

The move is part of Barnes & Noble's global expansion strategy, which will also see it launch a multimillion-pound venture in the UK book market, bringing it into direct competition with more established players such as Dillons, Waterstone's and WH Smith.

But in spite of the hype surrounding the agreement, many will see Barnes & Noble's online plans as rather belated. The company has already lost a huge volume of sales to Amazon.com, its upstart Internet rival.

Amazon, which now modestly describes itself as "The Earth's Biggest Bookstore" — was the first company to establish a successful Internet book-selling site. The traditional book trade, not known for its love of modern technology, at first dismissed the service as a gimmick.

Amazon now offers readers one and a half million titles in print, and another one million out of print. Customers who visit its site can read selected passages from books, look at reviews written by other customers or write their own

criticisms and recommendations. To buy a book, customers give their credit card details and the book is sent through the post.

Amazon currently offers books at discounts of up to 40 per cent below its high-street rivals. The company has also managed to stage a worldwide publicity coup by offering customers the chance to contribute to a short story written online by John Updike, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist.

The way consumers pay their bills could also be fundamentally changed by the Internet. Microsoft is reportedly setting up a joint service with First Data Corporation, the credit card services group, to take over the bill-paying operations of American utilities. It is estimated that ten million Americans receive three bills a month at a cost to the sender of 50 cents each.

Microsoft believes it can have this cost by sending bills electronically. After customers have received their electronic bills, they will then have the option of questioning or cancelling the amount charged to them, before the money is automatically taken out of their account.

Although companies in the telecoms, software and electronics sectors are desperate to make the future of Internet commerce look as bright as possible, its success will depend ultimately on how willing consumers are to give their credit card details to Internet sites.

This problem was highlighted at last week's CWC conference when only a handful of delegates admitted that they would be willing to use their

cards online. In contrast, nearly all said they would gladly hand over their credit card to a waiter, or use it to order theatre tickets over the telephone.

It was an uneasy moment in a conference designed to alert consumers to the supposedly mouth-watering opportunities brought by Internet commerce. After all, most of the delegates were experts in information technology. Without their trust, there is little hope for the rest of the market.

The display of no confidence has failed to dent the enthusiasm of Graham Wallace, who is convinced that consumers will eventually overcome their fears of online fraud. "We will be able to guarantee great levels of security over the Internet," he says. "The irony is that using your credit card over the phone is incredibly insecure, and you certainly can't get any more insecure than putting a letter in a paper envelope."

He went on: "I do not think it's as big a leap of faith as some people make it out to be. At the moment we are seeing the tip of the iceberg, with Internet shopping ready to explode. I expect to see levels of trade doubling every year in the way we have seen so far."

Although the British online market is still far less advanced than in the US, many companies are starting to offer American-style Internet services. J Sainsbury became the first supermarket group to launch an Internet shopping service in 1995 with Wine Direct, and the company currently estimates that about 20 per cent of its customers are interested in some form of remote shopping.

However, there is not yet any solid evidence to prove that consumers regard such schemes as anything other than gimmicks.

Research by Verdict suggests that such scepticism is perhaps justified. It shows that only 0.07 per cent of current UK retail spending is on the Internet. This figure is expected to rise to 1 per cent by 2001, and 8 per cent by 2010.

Richard Hyman says: "When it comes to touching, viewing, hearing, smelling and trying on, electronic shopping is at a significant disadvantage. Picture quality is poor and cannot provide the visual detail to make styling on clothing or furnishings fully discernible. In this area the Internet is some way from even being able to match today's mail-order catalogues."



The life of Liam: clockwise, from top left — as a food retailer, first with Reckitt & Colman; marketing with British Airways; in charge of the ill-fated shoe subsidiaries as the chief executive of Sears; and at home with wife Jackie



Ill-fitting shoes are forgotten as Strong lands on his feet

Famous shameful exits. Peter Rawlinson bows out from the Stock Exchange after the scrapping of Taurus, the electronic trading system. Gerald Ratner watches his jewellery empire fall apart after making rude remarks about cut-glass sherry decanters.

So who clinches the top international job at WorldCom, the US company at the heart of the biggest takeover bid in history? When Strong quit Sears in April, his ears ringing from myriad insults, headhunters rated his chances of landing a decent UK post at less than zero. One suggested that he try the Middle East. Another said anywhere would do — as long as it was not Britain.

To the intense annoyance of his detractors, Strong, 52, has managed to do both, keeping his feet in the UK, but answering to an American employer. Not only that, but his timing is immaculate, coming days after WorldCom threw BT's expansion plans into disarray with its \$30 billion bid for MCI, the US

long-distance telephone group. WorldCom insists that the timing is "complete coincidence". Those who have observed Strong over the years have come to recognise him for what he is — a corporate chameleon, ready to change colour to fit whatever surroundings most suit him. That his biochemistry went spectacularly amiss at Sears was just one of those things. Strong was resplendent in his new colours yesterday, his tail and feet clad in the Union Flag, his head and torso adorned in the Stars and Stripes. He spent the morning introducing himself to WorldCom's London employees, before jetting off to New York on the first leg of a global tour.

WorldCom was being characteristically "American" about the whole thing, refusing to say how Strong came to be hired, and declining to comment on the size of his pay package. In line with US practice, he is likely to command a comparatively modest basic salary, topped up by a heavy incentive element. Strong left Sears with a £465,000 payoff, and would have been in line for more money had he not succeeded in landing a new job within ten months.

Headhunters were appointed months ago to find someone to head WorldCom's international division — a surprisingly big operation, with 1,500 employees, half of them in London, and annual sales approaching \$1 billion. There is a sizeable office in Hong Kong. The company will not say which headhunters were used, but Rae Sedel of Russell Reynolds, the UK's leading telecoms recruitment specialist, was not involved. The finger points at Korn/Ferry, which does a lot of work for WorldCom. Strong's marketing background, rather than his retail skills, would have tipped the scales when it came to the shortlist.

WorldCom was swift to peddle this line, saying Strong's years with global players such as Reckitt & Colman and BA made for a good fit. He had a feel for a network industry operating as a multinational organisation, and understood the value of a global brand. Perhaps he does, but a man

who has in turn sold soap powder, mustard, airline seats, and shoes cannot really claim to know anything about telecoms. An intriguing link is provided by Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA at the time when Strong was BA marketing director. Sir Colin is chairman of Inchcape, of which Strong is a non-executive director. He is also deputy chairman of BT.

Strong was little known on the UK media stage before taking the BA appointment in 1988. Born in Enniskillen in Northern Ireland, and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he read philosophy, he did three years with Procter & Gamble, working with brands such as Daz and Fairy toilet soap. He moved to Reckitt & Colman, staying for 17 years, before switching to BA, where mistrustful old-timers nicknamed him "The Mustard Man". He became chief executive of Sears in 1992, saying that the jobs were not really all that different.

For a military historian, Strong proved spectacularly inept at plotting his Sears campaigns, selling the Olympus Sport retail chain to Philip Green for half the net asset value, then unloading 380 shoe shops to Facia, run by Stephen Hinchliffe. It subsequently transpired that Hinchliffe had not paid anything for the businesses. Sears remained liable for many of the store leases and employee wages.

Strong will be hoping for a happier spell at WorldCom. Just don't mention shoes.

Without peer

TOM CHANDOS, one of our most experienced investment bankers specialising in the media, is on his way at the end of this month after disagreeing with his employer. Never a wise thing to do, even if his dispute with John Bots, founder and chairman of Bots & Co, the niche finance house, is an entirely amicable one about where the business goes.

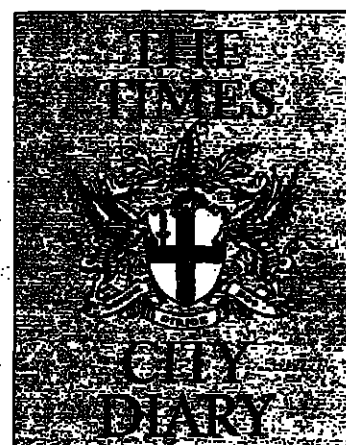
But it has meant Chandos has been approached by various big City banks and is also considering setting

up on his own account. He spent nearly 20 years at Kleinwort Benson before switching to Bots, which is part-owned by Allen & Co, the American media investment bank, in 1993.

Chandos inherited a viscountcy in 1980 but uses the title only when he is trying, as a peer who has taken the Labour whip, to have the House of Lords overhauled and his hereditary rights abolished. He was adviser to Lord Hollick, another Labour peer, and MAI in the union with United News & Media but came to prominence a year ago by quitting as a non-executive of Chrysler in protest at chairman Chris Wright's tardiness in appointing a chief executive.

He has a couple of directorships — "something to keep me out of mischief even if it isn't something to keep my bank manager happy" — but, asked of his long-term plans, he says: "I genuinely don't know."

● FOR a man with a reputation as a ditherer, Liam Strong is fond of martial metaphors. (I blame Sun Tzu, the Chinese military strategist whose *The Art of War* became a sort of New Age business bible a while back. And that chap who wrote about Attila the Hun's business secrets). His hero is Napoleon, and he can give chapter and verse on the emperor's tactics.



He has expressed a longing to lead an army in battle, and has quoted General Ulysses S. Grant: "First find your enemy, then move in on him and hit him hard and then keep hitting him." I wonder if Strong, during his stay at Sears, ever came across the Mongol tactic of feigned retreat. You rush up to the enemy waving your arms and making a huge song and dance. Then you run away again.

Not the ticket

THE tariff on parking meters in most of the City has been increased this week from £4 for two hours to £6, to adjust, says the Corporation of London, for inflation since it was last raised in 1989. It seems it would be

better if we all used public transport. It is generally a waste of time to try to counter political correctness with a few facts, but here goes.

The sort of people who regularly drive and park in the City are not going to be put off by an extra £2 a stay. And most rush-hour traffic congestion, as anyone who drives across London or other big cities knows, is in the outside residential areas, and consists of people making short, necessary journeys — school runs, trips to the station. Never mind. If the Corporation really wants to discourage cars, why not build a ring of concrete and plastic around the Square Mile, and allow cars to enter in single file? What do you mean, it didn't work?

● IT IS now almost two years since the brothers Maurice and Charles departed to set up their own agency, and Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising Worldwide has finally accepted that the name no longer fits. The business, now being demerged from sister agency Bates by the parent holding company Cordiant, accepts that time has moved on, and a new name is needed to reflect the changes that have taken place. But they are keeping the Saatchi bit. Instead they are dropping the word "advertising".

Own goal

AS AN ex-footballer, there are certain mistakes you would not expect David Whelan, the chairman of JJB Sports

and former Blackburn Rovers defender, to make. For example, putting small, replica football pitches in his company's larger branches to encourage children to demand even more replica shirts from their parents. The result, not surprisingly, was replica football hooliganism. "I got a bit rough," Mr Whelan said, with apparent surprise. "My goodness, some of those children can kick a ball." The football pitches are therefore no more, though the tamer game of basketball can still be played at JJB. And the mini-hooligans are on their way to the England-Italy game.

MARTIN WALLER



David Whelan found in-store soccer games on the rough side



"I wish I had as many lives as Liam Strong"

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERVIEW

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Blow for Kohl as unemployment rises to record

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN BONN

GERMANY'S unemployment rate set another postwar record in September with no improvement in sight before next spring, according to the Federal Labour Office.

Figures released yesterday, showing seasonally adjusted unemployment had risen by 34,000 from August to nearly 4.5 million, came as a bitter blow to Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the start of a tough year of campaigning ahead of the general elections next autumn. Officials also see little hope of a change in the trend of climbing unemployment in Germany, which has increased almost every month for the past year.

Klaus Lever, Labour Office vice-president, said: "The overall figure certainly won't improve before spring next year." He added that the forecast average for 1997 had been revised up by 100,000 to 4.4 million. However, Herr Lever

said the Labour Office did not expect to have to tap Bonn for more funding to support the country's unemployed.

Economists say additional welfare costs and a subsequent £2.7 billion loss in tax revenue could hamper Bonn's chances of qualifying for economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999.

Herr Kohl is determined that Germany will meet the Maastricht treaty's budget deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product to join the first stage of a single currency union but the economic recovery promised by the Government is slow in coming.

"We are seeing structural problems in eastern Germany persisting," Nick Stamenkovic, Frankfurt analyst, said.

While unemployment in western Germany rose by 7,000 to 3.05 million, 26,000

more people were without work in the former East Germany, where a number of government work schemes have been scrapped and many companies, which were artificially kept going by the Communists, closed down.

"It is extremely worrying that this downward trend doesn't stop," Herr Lever said. "The gap between east and west is growing."

However economists pointed out that a slight improvement in the jobless rate in western Germany was almost exclusively because of an export boom, linked to the fall in value of the mark.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) immediately reminded the Government of its pledge to halve unemployment by the year 2000.

"The promise turned out to be a cartoon bubble," said Ottmar Schreiner, the SPD's deputy parliamentary leader.

Bloomsbury boosted by best-sellers

BY FRASER NELSON

BEST-SELLERS like Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* and Will Self's *The Great Age* helped Bloomsbury Publishing to stem its losses in the first half, but the results still failed to restore City confidence in its longer-term prospects.

The company's shares, which joined the market at 110p three years ago, dropped 1p to a near-low of 82½p yesterday, as the company returned a pre-tax loss of £367,000 for the six months to June 30, against a £379,000 loss last time.

The company said there were signs that the UK book-buying market is beginning to recover, and it also welcomed the advance of Waterstone's and Books Etc whose stock mix was suited to Bloomsbury's titles. But it would not comment on its collaboration with Microsoft over an electronic quotations dictionary because the deal is commercially sensitive.

Total sales for the half-year improved to £4.76 million (£4.4 million). In spite of a 4.2p loss per share (4.5p loss), a maintained interim dividend of 0.7p is declared.



Nigel Newton, chairman of Bloomsbury, sees signs of a book-buying recovery in the UK

Maunders' profits and sales build

BY GEORGE SIVELL

JOHN MAUNDERS, the housebuilder, raised pre-tax profits by 38 per cent to £6.2 million in the year to June 30 on sales up 15 per cent to £77.8 million. Earnings per share rose by 38 per cent to 16.65p, out of which the total dividend for the year rose 10.5 per cent to 6.30p. The final dividend was raised by 14 per cent to 3.70p.

At the year end the book value of land stood at £47 million, enough for 2,359 plots, against 1,802 at this stage last year. Maunders sold 1,021 houses during the year, a slight increase on the previous year.

On prospects, John Maunders, company chairman, said: "The interest rate increases have had no significant measurable effect on market conditions, with the North West and Midlands experiencing more normal levels of trading with very little inflation. The South remains buoyant, but shows some signs that price increases are starting to slow down."

Pound hits fabrics company

BY MARTIN BARROW

WALKER GREENBANK, the wallcoverings and fabrics company, achieved a 4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, in spite of the severe adverse impact of the strength of sterling on exports and on the translation of overseas earnings.

Yesterday the company reported pre-tax profits up to £4.46 million from £4.79 million for the six months to the end of July, on sales that fell to £48.8 million from £51.45 million.

Walker Greenbank estimates that it lost export sales of about £1.6 million, while the turnover of its overseas subsidiaries was reduced by £1.8 million on translation.

Charles Wightman, chief executive, said that, although the consumer division had traded well in the first half, the commercial division had experienced tough market conditions. Earnings rose 4 per cent to 2.5p a share. The interim dividend is held at 1.3p a share and is payable on December 9. The shares fell 1p to 58p, yesterday.

Walker Greenbank said that the trading outlook for the company continued to improve slowly. Mr Wightman said that the second half would show the benefit of recent investment.

MSB rises by 58% at half way

MSB International, the information technology contract recruitment specialist, raised pre-tax profits 58 per cent to £3.71 million in the six months to July 31 on sales up 83 per cent to £54.9 million.

Earnings per share rose 53 per cent to 12½p out of which a half-year dividend of 3.0p has been declared, up 50 per cent on the previous year. The shares rose 5p to 47½p.

Site for Asda

Asda Property has bought the former De-It-All premises in Sutton, near London, for £125 million from Courtlands per se firm. Asda Property said it had planning consent to redevelop the site to provide 27,000 sq ft of open retail accommodation and 87 car parking spaces.

Rentokil deal

Rentokil Initial, the business services company, has sold United Transport Tankers (UTI), the road tanker distribution and tanker cleaning business, to Den Hartogh, a privately owned Dutch transport group, for £4 million.

Hogg expands

Hogg Robinson is buying the business travel operations of Kuoni Reisen in France and Italy for £300,000.

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Kevin Keegan

TIMES readers are invited to a Times/Dillons forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United. Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football correspondent of *The Times*. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's *My Autobiography* (Little Brown £16.99) and will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Stacey's Cafe, London SW1 at 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me tickets at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Forum with Kevin Keegan at 7.30pm on Thursday, October 16, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

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Prerequisites for the position include computer skills, audio and an ability to organise and manage diaries. Previous experience is essential.

The role also involves other duties assisting key members of staff in a small office environment.

Commencing salary £18,500 p.a.

Applications should be forwarded in writing by 21 October 1997, enclosing a CV and the name of two independent referees to:

Agent-General for Victoria, Victoria House, Melbourne Place, Strand, London, WC2E 4LG.

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In return we offer a non-contributory pension, life cover, 28 days annual holiday and free entrance to all English Heritage properties.

To apply please write with your CV and a covering letter, quoting ref no R/138/97 to Lucy Riordan, Personnel Department, English Heritage, Room 409, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. Closing date: 26th October 1997.

Unfortunately we are unable to reply individually to all applicants. If you have not heard from us within four weeks of the closing date, please accept that your application has not been successful.

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Applications in writing to: Mrs Elizabeth Martin, Lexecon Ltd, 77/78 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4AA. References are essential. Closing date for applications: 17 October 1997.

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In Microsoft Word, create the document as usual but try to keep it simple — just a couple of typefaces and sizes. Use Insert/Picture/From File option for pictures. To make links select the text or picture, then on the Insert menu choose Hyperlink and navigate your way to the document you wish to link. Finally choose File/Save As/HTML Document. The pictures should be saved automatically in the document, but you may have to transfer them, or copies of them, to the directory where you store the intranet pages if they don't show up properly.

CHRIS WARD

Susan MacDonald looks at the benefits of being a top-level PA

How does it feel to be in such demand?

Good secretaries, especially those in top-level jobs, are beginning to call the shots. It is not that those aggressive employee-led days of the 1980s are back, but as the economy grows, so secretaries and office staff are finding they can sometimes take their pick of jobs.

Needless to say, it is the experienced, multi-skilled PA secretaries at director level who come top of the list of categories where demand has outstripped supply. The word in some Crème de la Crème advertisements demonstrates this. More enticing job descriptions and a greater list of benefits show how much top secretaries are needed.

Advertisements by companies offering £30,000 a year to "the right person" or "an excellent salary" and "a great opportunity for the right applicant" can now be regularly seen.

Financial benefits, such as company pensions, are being expanded into lifestyle benefits, such as health insurance, extra holidays, gym member-

ship and flexitime. Then there is mortgage assistance, sub-benefits — and even four-and-a-half day weeks.

To attract top secretaries, companies are finding that they need to rethink the salaries on offer, and salaries in some Crème adverts are not stated but referred to as negotiable.

The autumn salary survey of Reed Employment Services, published this week, states that some organisations which need to take on good secretaries are having to revise an initial offer upwards, sometimes by several thousand pounds, to attract multi-skilled staff. This is particularly true of companies in the City and West End, where the highest salaries in the UK are offered.

Across the board, the survey says, office and secretarial staff salaries are rising only slightly above the level of inflation. But this is enough to

make it even harder for smaller companies to take on top-quality secretaries.

It is one thing for companies to manage to find the perfect secretary; it is another to keep them. And so, even near-obsolete phrases such as "offering security through permanent positions" and "long-term planning and training to keep secretaries" are again in use by employers.

Given the demand for top office and secretarial staff, it is not surprising that organisations have vacancies. However, Reed's survey shows that a surprisingly high 42 per cent of the 587 employers of secretarial staff across the UK who were questioned had vacancies for permanent staff. This percentage was even higher in the Thames Valley, the City and the West End of London.

Nineteen per cent of employers said it was the skills

shortage at the top level that was causing them problems, in comparison with just 3 per cent who said this when the last Reed salary survey was published six months ago.

Overwhelmingly, it is IT skills that are needed more than others. An employer's idea of a perfect PA/secretary, according to the survey, is one who will have skills in presentation packages (such as PowerPoint), spreadsheets (typically Excel), advanced word processing skills (especially Word 6 or Word 7) — and excellent communication and business skills.

Shorthand is still high on the list of skills required. Fifteen per cent of employers found shortages there, as against 3 per cent six months ago. Team secretaries, who juggle the demands of more than one manager, were also found to be in short supply by 15 per cent of employers.

The need for secretaries who can speak a foreign language is finally taking off. Ten per cent of employers found a shortage in this area, up by 1 per cent on six months ago.



James Reed: "It is crucial to learn good IT skills if you want to be successful"

James Reed, chief executive of Reed Employment Services, says: "If you are an experienced secretary with up-to-date IT skills, you are in demand at the moment, with a range of interesting and rewarding career options to choose from."

"Therefore, it is crucial to get current IT skills if you want to be successful. Now is the time to check what is required. If necessary, take advantage of the free cross-training on offer to those registered with recruitment specialists, such as Reed."

CURRENT SHORTAGE OF SKILLS

Skills area	Autumn 1997 (%)	Change since spring 97 (%)
PA/secretary (director level)	19	+3
Shorthand secretary (dept/manager level)	15	+3
Secretary with languages	10	+1
Wordprocessing secretary	8	0
Switchboard	8	0
Customer service clerk	8	New
Legal secretary	7	0
Telephone sales clerk	7	0
Medical secretary	6	0
DTP secretary	5	0
Administration clerk	5	0
Office manager	4	0

Source: Reed Salary Survey

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Please apply in writing with full CV, quoting reference "New Tech", and including current salary details, to:

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Closing date for applications: Wed 15th October 1997.

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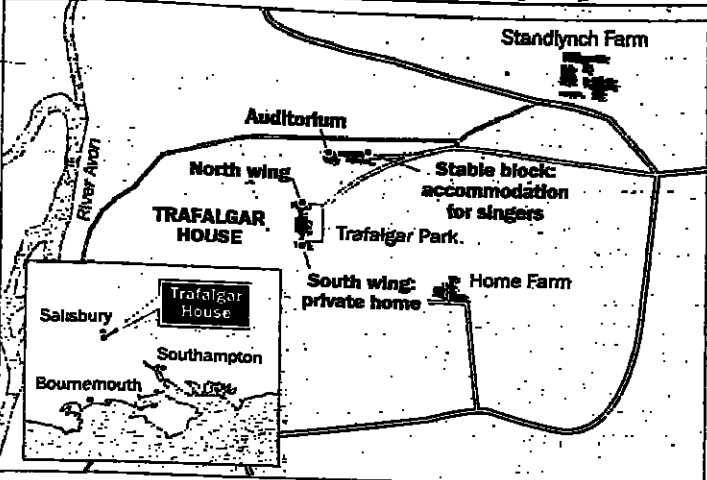
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Tied to fear for future new ow

The stately home battle of Trafalgar

How much influence should a conservation group wield over somebody else's property? Rachel Kelly reports



Michael Wade is cross. The new owner of Trafalgar Park, a Wiltshire stately home that last month was named *Country Life's* "Country house of the year", is at odds with the Georgian Group.

Mr Wade wants to turn this mid-18th century pink brick house with its large wings into a centre for music. It would be run by a trust with an auditorium inside the derelict north wing and private accommodation for Mr Wade and his wife in the south. But last week the Georgian Group penned a report describing the damaged north wing interiors as "international importance".

"The group could not condone the destruction of such rooms," the report continues. "Despite the dereliction within, the wing remains structurally sound and its interiors could be restored."

Instead, the group suggested a

free-standing auditorium to be built close by, leaving the latter to be used as additional accommodation for sponsors.

"It is to be hoped that this will result in an agreed scheme which will both fulfil the trust's musical ambitions and restore Trafalgar to its full glory." So Mr Wade has been forced to think again, two years after he bought the house and 15 acres of estate for around £1 million. He estimates he has spent around £40,000 on architect's fees drawing up new plans.

"I'm very frustrated," he says. "The group has objected using the very slightest information, without full-blown research. They've put the obligation back on me."

Such debate lies at the heart of the dilemma facing new owners of the nation's stately homes. Like Mr Wade, they are seduced by architectural gems such as Trafalgar which are in need of major repairs. They buy flush with optimism about



Michael Wade's plans for Trafalgar Park are under attack by the Georgian Group, which objects to the construction of an auditorium in the north wing, right

plans they hope will herald a secure and upbeat future, only to be frustrated by the intricacies of negotiating with conservation lobbies such as the Georgian Group and ultimately English Heritage.

"Sometimes one feels as if these groups would prefer to see these houses fall down rather than sanction something new," Mr Wade says.

His lament is all the more poignant when one considers Trafalgar's chequered history. The house's future has been uncertain since its sale by the 5th Earl Nelson in the 1840s.

Built by the banker Sir Peter Vandepuit in 1733 to designs by John James, it was subsequently given as a gift from a grateful nation to the family of the hero of Trafalgar. On Nelson's death in 1805, his heir was his elder brother, the Rev. William Nelson, who succeeded him as Duke of Brontë and was created Earl Nelson of Trafalgar. After the expense of building Blenheim for the Duke of

Marlborough, Parliament decided not to build a new house for the Nelson family, but to buy the Standlynch estate south of Salisbury instead, renaming the house Trafalgar Park.

After its sale by the Nelson family, a bewildering succession of owners have lived there, including the Duke of Leeds, Viscount Chandos and a Swedish entrepreneur called Gunnar Bengtsson. The house became detached from its surrounding estate, finally being left with just seven acres in 1953, and has been in ever worse repair. The north wing has been eaten up by dry rot and developers were seeking to build in the grounds when Mr Wade bought the house at the end of 1995.

Mr Wade is to be congratulated on his efforts to date. He is deeply sympathetic to the house's plight, as is his wife, Caroline, daughter of Sir Francis Dashwood, who was brought up in another historic house, West Wycombe Park.

Unlike any previous owner, Mr

Wade has managed to buy 32 acres of parkland round the house to ensure its appropriate setting and has begun to repair the building. He is refreshingly modest about his plans. He has transferred the ownership to a newly-formed Trafalgar Park Trust, which will own and develop the house. His Trafalgar Foundation is a charity which aims to encourage young musicians and sponsor operatic performances. Ultimately, the trust will transfer ownership of the house to the foundation.

The whole point of this is that I am not trying to create a dynastic home for my heirs, but that the house should be a self-supporting business," Mr Wade, chief executive of the Lloyd's corporate vehicle CLM Insurance Fund, will make the most of his City contacts to ensure corporate support.

"I hope we see a greater development of these sort of houses being used for regional performances. Many pieces were composed to be played in just such settings."

He plans a five-bedroom, five-bathroom house for his family in the south wing, and 20 bedroom and bathroom suites, 12 in the main block of the house and eight either in the stable block or the north wing, depending on the site of the auditorium. He already has planning permission from Salisbury District Council to resite the drive and build two new lodge houses.

Now he is deciding his next move. He could follow the Georgian Group's suggestion and plump for a free-standing, temple-style auditorium or pursue his original suggestion for the north wing. "I believe there should be a requirement that if a conservation group wishes to oppose something, they must make a viable counter-proposal, at their expense."

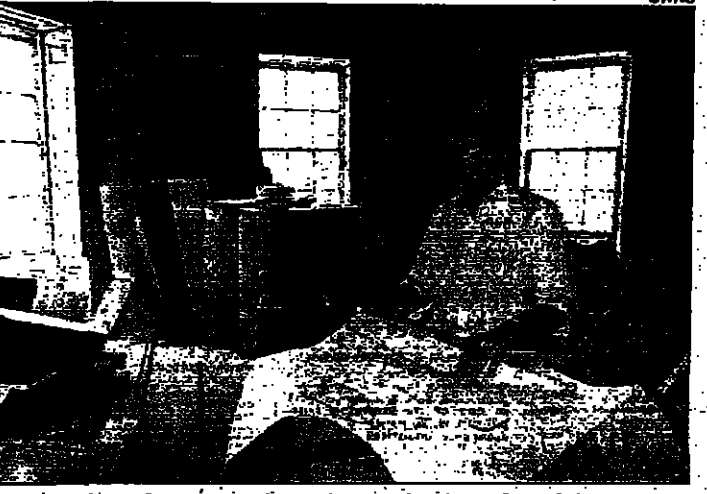
If, for example, he is to restore the north wing as the Georgian Group suggests, then where is he to find the fireplaces which have been ripped out? Where should he site

the necessary bathrooms? The basic premise that houses should be restored just as they were must change, Mr Wade says. "While respecting the integrity of the house and the architecture, we need to move a house and its purpose forward."

The problem is cash. The Georgian Group, as its secretary, Neil Burton points out, is run on a £25,000-a-year shoestring. Neither it nor English Heritage has the cash to produce counter-proposals.

Ultimately, Government must decide if it is to fund architectural proposals for such houses. One immediate problem, as Mr Burton points out, is how to distinguish between sensitive proposals such as those of Mr Wade and schemes of get-rich-quick property developers.

"Ultimately, whoever owns the property must be the most concerned," says Mr Burton. "They have the end responsibility to care for the house." It is to be hoped that Mr Wade has the courage and cash to handle such responsibility.



Michael Wade contemplates the north wing of Trafalgar Park

Amanda Loose on the uncertainties of housing on country estates

Much property writer's ink has been spilt recently on the number of fine estates up for sale. But less has been heard about the human problems that can accompany such sales: the fate of the tenants who live on such estates in tied cottages and houses.

Rising rents, absentee landlords or even the possibility of losing their homes altogether worry many tenants when great estates such as Luton Hoo are put on the market.

The tenants at Upton Cheyney, a hamlet of 12 cottages on an estate near Bath, feared rising rents when the estate was scheduled for auction in 29 separate lots earlier this month. About half intended to bid for their properties, but many feared they would be unsuccessful.

But the hamlet was bought lock, stock and estate cottage, reputedly for in excess of £1 million last month, by an unnamed investor.

The tenants now face new uncertainties. One said cautiously: "We are just waiting to see what the new landlord is like."

Sales are usually less troubled, says Clive Hopkins of Knight Frank: "A change of the man at the top does alter the atmosphere on the estate. Agricultural tenants are always keen to know if their new landlord will be more hands-on or hands-off, but otherwise have very little to fear if they are protected by full agricultural tenancy agreements."

Since the Seventies, farm-workers and their families have had a considerable degree of protection under the 1976 Rent (Agriculture) Act. If made redundant, agricultural workers are still covered by the Act. Other tenants are protected if they enjoy Protected Tenancies, with rents controlled by the local council.

Domestic employees in accommodation have most to fear, as such staff do not have the protection that agricultural employees enjoy. Not only do they possibly face losing their jobs, but their homes are protected by different statutes, offering a greater or lesser degree of protection. Many fear that the new owner will want to bring his own staff, particularly if he is moving from one estate to

Tied tenants fear for the future under new owners



Culham Court estate is for sale for about £6.5 million

another," Mr Hopkins says. New landlords have no obligation, however, to continue assured, shorthold tenancy agreements if they have lapsed, and can terminate the agreement by giving one or two months' notice.

When it comes to estates changing hands, much depends on the way such transfers are handled. James Laing at Strutt & Parker argues that a sensitively handled sale can do much to allay tenants' fears. "It is important to

explain to and reassure tenants at the outset that they have a right to stay there, depending on which sort of tenancy they have, and that these are clearly documented in the sales particulars," he says.

Many estates are currently changing hands, highlighting such problems. Justin Marking, from Savills, says: "The estate market is as busy as it has been since the late Eighties. We have achieved premiums of 15 to 35 per cent in the

last year, with many buyers looking to convert London money into country money."

Much of the market is fuelled by non-farming money, says Mr Marking, with many buyers looking to convert the profits from company flotations and the like into roll-over tax relief. Businesses can postpone their tax liability on the sale of their company by claiming reinvestment tax relief if they reinvest the proceeds.

Mr Hopkins believes that overseas buyers have not been deterred by a strong pound. "The boom reflects confidence in the economy, in all sectors of the marketplace, and also the strength of the property market itself," he says.

The "feel-good" factor is a major influence, says Mr Laing. "A few years ago people were shy about taking on the big house, although they felt there was money to be made in farming. But now they are confident enough to take on the house as well."

More than one agent has been surprised by the scramble. Andrew Macpherson of Clegg Kennedy Drew says: "I am surprised those with estates to sell didn't do so this time last year, as spectacular prices were being paid."

"I thought that the spring and summer of this year would be quiet, and I was proved wrong. The market is strong, and it is difficult to get your client in front of the bidding. But an estate still has to be right to sell well."

Privacy, an understated shabbiness and sense of tradition are *de rigueur*, according to Rupert Bradstock of the buying agents Property Vision. He says: "Demands have changed over the past ten years. In the booming market of the late Eighties people wanted very visible properties. Now it's more low key, with a certain style and class, beautiful houses which do not necessarily say 'Look what I can afford', but something with old-fashioned bathrooms and so on."

Knight Frank is selling the £6.5 million Culham Court estate, near Henley-on-Thames, for sale in three lots: Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire for £25 million; Cricket St Thomas in Somerset for around £8 million; and Hackwood Park in Hampshire for £15 to £20 million.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

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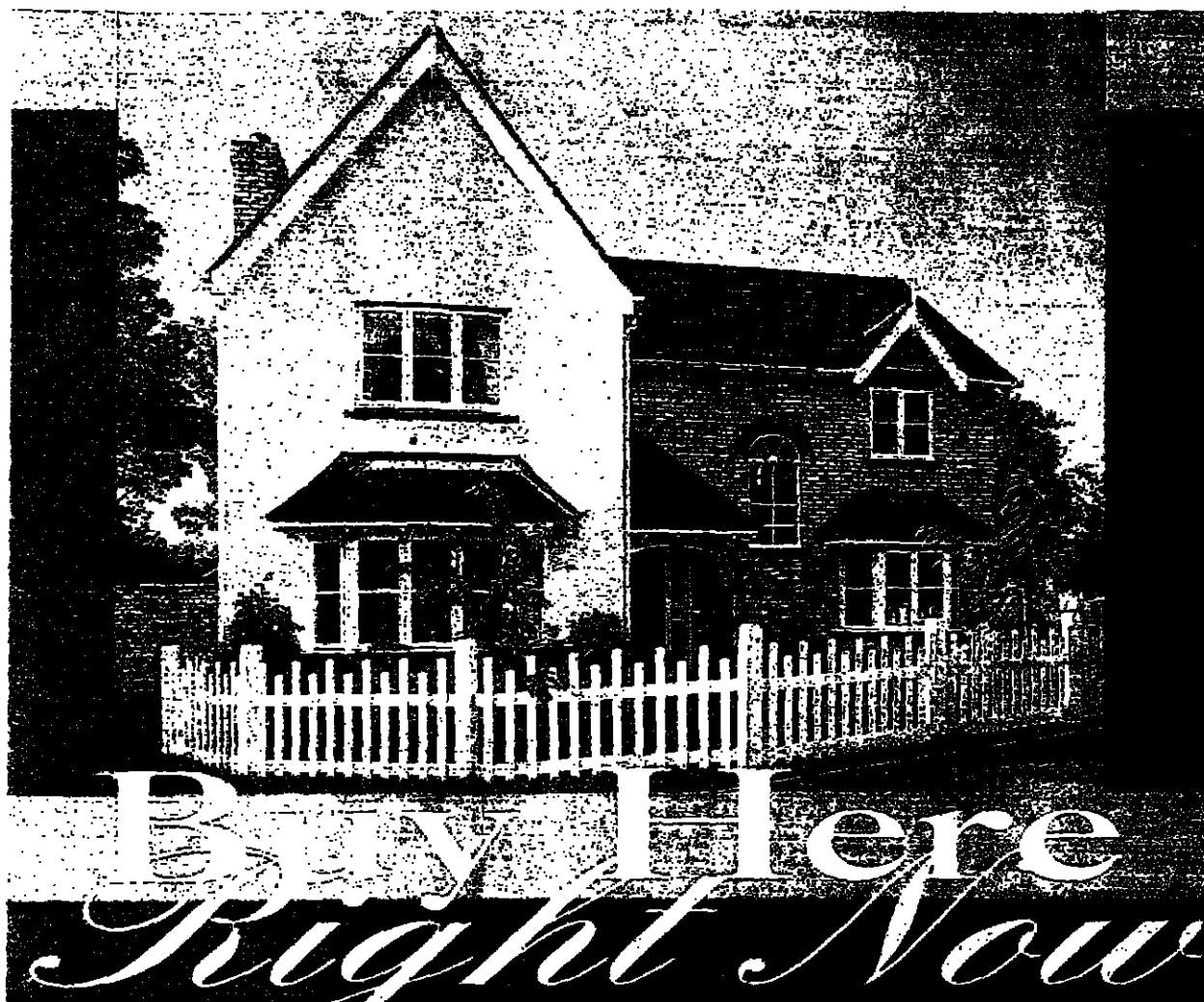
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ICE HOCKEY: BRITISH GOALTENDER PLANS TO BUCK THE TRANSATLANTIC TREND

Lyle sets out on American dream

By ALIX RAMSAY

FOR such a single-minded young man, Steve Lyle's approach to his work seems just a touch confused. He started life as a Devil, has done well to become a Whaler but really has his heart set on a life as a Redwing. In order to achieve this goal, he upped sticks from Cardiff, in Wales, and moved to Detroit, in the United States, to give himself a chance to further his career in Canada. This, apparently, is the way to go.

Lyle is one of that rare breed, a British ice hockey player with a shot of making it in the National Hockey League (NHL). Usually the transatlantic traffic flows in the other direction as those who cannot survive the high pressure, multimillion dollar life in the NHL come to Europe, where the standard is good but not great and the money is fair but not fabulous. Lyle is determined to reverse that trend as he begins his first season with the Plymouth Whalers. Part-owned by the Detroit Redwings, the Whalers compete in the Canadian League, where most players start out on the road to the NHL, fame and fortune.

This season is the first real test for Lyle and his ambitions. At the age of 17, this is his draft year. Over the next few months and more than 100 games, NHL coaches and scouts will monitor the progress of the young hopefuls and, come the summer, pick the best of the bunch. Those who make it will be owned lock, stock and puck by their new club and while they will continue to play in Canada, they will be called into battle by their NHL masters whenever necessary. There is a lot at stake this year.

Lyle is used to the spotlight. He began his career as a

goaltender for the Cardiff Devils at the age of 14 and, by the end of last season, he was voted the Superleague's best.

Word about Lyle's potential began to filter back to Michigan via the Stefan brothers. Gary Stefan, the player-manager at Slough Jets, and Joe, with Basingstoke Bison, mentioned Lyle in dispatches to their brother, Greg, the former goaltender of the Redwings, who is now coach to the Whalers.

"Steve is a long way from the NHL right now," Greg Stefan said, "but that's true of a lot of the kids here at the moment. He's got a lot of talent, but he's got some making up to do. There are things he missed out on in his development in Britain, but he's a quick learner and he makes up for a lot of that with his speed. He's got to get better to make the draft, but he's fundamentally sound and he's on the right track. Whether he makes it or not is entirely in his control."

'He's got a lot of talent, but he's got some making up to do'

may not be the most optimistic of assessments, but then Greg Stefan is not one to build up his players' hopes — not all of them will succeed. The schedule is hard with three training sessions every day of the week, endless travel to and from games, school work — and all for \$40 a week spending money. It is not exactly glamorous, but then again it is the way Wayne Gretzky started and Gretzky is the greatest player ever to skate on to the ice, the Michael Jordan or Pelé of his sport.

More encouragingly, goaltenders Greg Stefan and Lyle are kindred spirits. "Greg goes through everything with me," Lyle said. "Every game, he takes me through all the points and I learn something every day. It is a different responsibility being in goal.



Lyle, already the Great Britain goaltender, is hoping to break into the NHL.

There is a lot of pressure and you are the only individual in the team. If you let in a bad goal, the team can fall apart, but if another player is having a bad day, it doesn't matter as much."

He is getting used to the new life in Michigan and, permanently tired from the packed training programme, has little energy left to be homesick. The pace and aggression of the games also takes some getting used to and in a world of

musclemen standing 6ft or more, Lyle, at 5ft 9in, has had to learn to take care of himself.

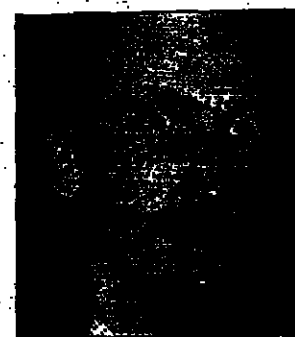
"Back home, we used to have one fight every five games or so, but over here we have about three fights a game," he said. "There are some guys who are not that skilful, but are trying to fight their way into the NHL. I just watch — provided my defencemen keep the puck out, I don't mind who they hit."

As the season gets into full swing, there are no stars in Lyle's eyes. He knows there is nothing but hard graft between him and his goal. "It's like starting all over again," he said, "but I'm willing to do whatever it takes, which means working hard and staying confident. I've got more experience than some from playing in the Superleague. I think my chances are OK if I keep concentrating. I did it at home, I think I can do it again here."

Last weekend's *Sunday Times* contained a piece on mini-rugby. "Almost every match is conducted before a frightening herd of roaring, bawling parents..." which must make it unpleasant for all the players and hateful beyond belief for the one with the loudest parents. Swimming parents are sup-

When parent power kills sport's purpose

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

The public schools. I learn from yesterday's *Times*, are introducing a code of conduct to stamp out "indiscipline and gamesmanship" in sport. They are also hoping to do something rather more useful, and a good deal more difficult — get the parents to shut up.

My favourite bit was the parent who was secretly videotaped while watching his son in a match. He was then made to sit through his performance. It was something, no doubt, tediously familiar to many adults and many more children. Get stuck in, you big girl's blouse! This from a father to his son at an under-eight's football match. Fine! Remember that?

There is a sign at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida by one of the courts. It says: No Parents. I wonder who derives more pleasure from this sign — the coaches, or the children? I suspect the children, but it must be a close run thing.

While I was prowling around the academy, at the invitation of the hospitable boss, I learnt that there was an English girl in residence, so I sought her out. To ask difficult questions like "What's it like here?" and "Is it fun?" The result has always haunted me. It was one of those incidents that changes, or at least brings into sharper focus, all your views and understanding about a subject.

Zing! Tennis parent. Materialising in front of me like a genie from a bottle. With groovy Floridian shades, groovy Chatwood, haircut, groovy Brummie accent. "My daughter's with IMG and we like to control the press, and right now our policy is to keep her under wraps."

Didst give all to thy daughter? And art come to this? Alas, I thought, poor daughter. I bumped into the pair of them many years later, at a tennis tournament in, obviously, Birmingham. And the daughter had not emerged from the aforementioned wrapping. She was still under wraps, and would be evermore.

Last weekend's *Sunday Times* contained a piece on mini-rugby. "Almost every match is conducted before a frightening herd of roaring, bawling parents..." which must make it unpleasant for all the players and hateful beyond belief for the one with the loudest parents. Swimming parents are sup-

posed to be the worst. This is no doubt the reason for the odd career pattern of many swimmers: early achievement, falling back, complete loss of interest, retirement. Followed by the second wind, the returning to competition as a mature person, a parent-free zone.

I remember a story told to me by a former child swimming prodigy, who was groomed for greatness by his father. When the weight of training grew intolerable he would soak off. When his father discovered him, and ordered him back into the pool, he would respond with the ultimate, and always effective, sanction: "I'll tell mum!"

Hotheadedness is the term sometimes used for a child for sporting excellence. Martina Hingis, groomed from her christening to be a tennis star, remains the example of hotheadedness done with some kind of sanity. Hingis would have completed the grand slam — at the age of 16.



Capriati and Pierce have suffered from pushy parents

Need to have regulation Internet be

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Often when you are defending you have to play your partner for a specific card in order to beat the contract. But you also have to consider whether there are extra chances if your initial try fails. Here is an example:

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
♠ A J 9 8 5 ♥ J 7 5 4 3 ♦ 3 ♣ K 8	♠ 10 8 4 ♥ A 8 6 ♦ J 10 5 4 2 ♣ 10 7	
♠ K Q 7 3 ♥ K Q 10 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ A 4 2		
S H 3 NT	W E All Pass	N C 2 S

Contract: Three No-Trump by South. Lead: six of spades

Declarer wins East's ten with the king and plays ace and another club. East playing high-low to show two. What should West shift to?

Clearly declarer is marked with the queen of spades (East would have played it at trick one if he had it), so if he also has both red aces he is home. Hence West must play for East to have four small spades or three headed by the eight, and in addition a red ace — which is it to be?

At the table West switched to a diamond and now declarer had nine tricks. It was the wrong shift. Playing a diamond gives the contract when ever South has the ace of diamonds. Playing a heart succeeds on the above deal, and also would not have been fatal had East held the ace of diamonds and at least the

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Alternative strategies

It is well known that in grandmaster chess playing with the white pieces confers an advantageous initiative. Players who prefer king's pawn openings tend to utilise this initiative to launch an early attack. Others, aficionados of queenside openings, go for a gradual strategic build-up before unleashing an attack.

Today's games show how the white pieces can translate into a winning advantage, almost imperceptibly. Michael Adams, rated highest in Britain, overcomes his opponent by active piece play, whilst Kasparov bases his offensive on an inescapable advance of his central pawns.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Alexander Onischuk
Tilburg, September 1997

Giaccio Pawns

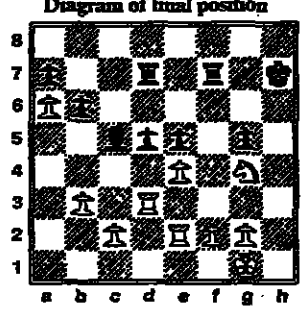
1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bc4	Nf6
4 d3	Bb7
5 O-O	O-O
6 Nbd2	Bd6
7 Nc2	Bxc4
8 Re1	Rd8
9 dxc4	Bb8
10 Nf1	Bb8
11 Bg5	h6
12 Bxf6	Qxf6
13 Ne3	Qd6
14 a5	Ne7
15 Ra3	g6
16 h4	Bg7
17 h5	Rd8
18 a6	b5
19 Nf5	Rf7
20 h6g6	h6g6
21 Nf4	c6
22 Ne7+	Rxe7
23 Rg3	g5
24 Nf5	Rf7
25 Rf3	Bf8
26 b5	c5
27 Qd4	Kf7
28 cxd5	cxd5
29 Nf6	Qg4

Black to play. This position is from the game Koch — Relange, France 1997.

The white pieces are huddled unimpressively on the back row. How did Black take advantage of their constricted situation?

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Koch — Relange, France 1997. The white pieces are huddled unimpressively on the back row. How did Black take advantage of their constricted situation?



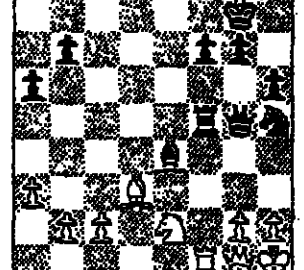
White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Judit Polgar
Tilburg, September 1997

White-to-Play Defence

1 c4	e6
2 Nc3	d5
3 d4	Bd4
4 e3	c5
5 Bc3	Bxc3+
6 bxc3	Nf6
7 cxd5	cxd5
8 Bf3	C4
9 Na2	Nd6
10 g4	h6
11 Bg2	Nf5
12 O-O	Nd3
13 Ra2	O-O
14 Ng3	Bd7
15 Qe1	Rd8
16 e4	dxc4
17 h4	Ng4
18 Bf4	Qh4
19 h3	Nf6
20 e5	Rd8
21 Qe2	Nf5
22 Bb6	Rd7
23 Nf3	Cd2+
24 Ra2	Rd2
25 Bc3	Bc5
26 Bf1	g5
27 Bc4	h5
28 Bf2	Kd5
29 Bb5	exd4
30 Bc5	Rf7
31 Rxd2	Bd4
32 Nc4	Black resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene



AMERICAN FOOTBALL: TEAM CAN CAPITALISE ON CHANGE OF NAME

England Monarchs seek home rule

By RICHARD WETHERELL

The London Monarchs will have a new name and three new homes for the 1998 World League season. They are to be known as the England Monarchs and are to play three of their five home games at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre and two in Manchester, Birmingham, Derby or Bristol. A decision on those venues will be announced next week.

The change comes at a crucial time for our franchise and we believe that this will

give a signal to everybody that we're moving forward," Alton Byrd, the Monarchs' general manager, said yesterday. Byrd said that the move would finally allow the organisation to stage "the full game experience" on match days, which is something that all the other World League teams have been able to do.

Crystal Palace will become the fourth London home for the Monarchs after playing at Wembley in 1991 and 1992, then moving to Tottenham Hotspur's White Hart Lane when the World League was

restarted in 1995, and Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's home, where they played the final game of the 1996 season and all of 1997.

Since 1995, the Monarchs have suffered three losing seasons and consequently failed to attract supporters, with an average attendance of 11,100. Referring to the change of name, Byrd said: "We believe playing as England will allow us a broader base of fans."

On the uncertainty surrounding the future of Crystal Palace, which Bromley Coun-

cil and the Sports Council are seeking to demolish, he said: "We've had conversations with Bromley Council and the Sports Council and there is no timetable on what they are going to do. Bromley have asked us for a commitment for 1998 and 1999, so as far as we are concerned, we anticipate playing at Crystal Palace then."

Oliver Luck, the World League president, said that the Scottish Claymores, who play at Murrayfield, were looking to do something similar by moving one game to Glasgow.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

MELVILLE HOMES LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the Company Limited by Guarantee, known as MELVILLE HOMES LIMITED, was incorporated in England on 12th September 1997. The registered office of the company is at 12, The Quadrant, London, W1A 1AA. The company is authorised to borrow money and to mortgage its undertaking and property for the purpose of raising money for the purchase of land and for the construction of houses thereon. The company is authorised to do all such other business as may be incidental to the above objects. The company is authorised to do all such other business as may be incidental to the above objects. The company is authorised to do all such other business as may be incidental to the above objects.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Liquidator of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985, hereby gives notice that he has received from the company a statement of assets and liabilities. The statement is available for inspection at the offices of the Liquidator, 12, The Quadrant, London, W1A 1AA, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on 10th October 1997. Creditors are invited to submit claims to the Liquidator by 10th October 1997. The Liquidator is authorised to accept payment of claims on behalf of the company.

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WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- HELLION**
a. A male lion
b. A poisonous herb
c. A troublesome person
- MOPIE**
a. A kitchen maid
b. An individual meat pie
c. A street song
- HEKTE**
a. The Goddess of Night
b. A silver coin
c. A canoe paddle
- LUNGGOMPA**
a. A step-grandfather
b. A long-distance monk
c. An asthmatic lesion

Answers on page 46

TRAINING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Koch — Relange, France 1997. The white pieces are huddled unimpressively on the back row. How did Black take advantage of their constricted situation?

Solution on page 46

Need to harness regulations on Internet betting

By CHRIS McGRATH

THE racing and betting industries have been warned that gambling on the Internet, an intriguing variation on "surf and turf", is fraught with indigestible possibilities. In an address to the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities, gathered in Paris after the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe meeting, a senior American lawyer alerted Europe to the spiders at the heart of the Web.

John Keitt, the US Jockey Club's legal specialist, has devoted seven years to exploring the revolutionary consequences of Internet gambling — and he braced his audience for the lawlessness of this game without frontiers.

Internet gambling in Britain is at present on a fragile scale. But it is a "rapidly growing, mobile industry", likely to turn over ten billion dollars annually in the United States by the year 2000 — and unconcerned by national boundaries. "It could take years for the international legal system to catch up."

Keitt believes a dangerous tension to be building between the highly regulated nature of the betting industry and the fact that the "secret of the Internet's success is its unregulated character".

One cannot be sanguine about the implications. British racing's funding, based on a levy on betting turnover, could presumably be severely eroded. As Keitt said: "An unregulated Internet gambling environment threatens to undermine the ability of race-tracks and racing authorities to realise their legitimate return on the races they host."

For "an Internet gambler can easily disguise his identity. Encryption and electronic money makes transactions indecipherable and untraceable."

The Clinton administration has issued guidelines for global electronic commerce, in principle favouring minimal intervention. But, uncomfortable about some of the business conducted on the Internet, Keitt described the "clash of cultures" developing "as various highly regulated industries — including wagering, banking, securities and telecommunications — seek to

adapt to this emerging and unregulated world."

The US experience provided a cautionary model, the whole Internet culture having developed faster there — including, it seems to show the courts to be confused by the pivotal issue of jurisdiction. There is great variety in gambling restrictions between different states — and legislation is before Congress, clarifying that existing law does embrace Internet gambling — prompting a search for conveniently equitable Acts.

Regulation, of course, also protects the punter himself, and some effort has been made in self-regulation. A forum of over 30 reputable companies has established a code of conduct that addresses consumer protection, from the resolution of disputes to restricting the access of minors — and even of compulsive gamblers. This helped Keitt to offer a note of some optimism.

It would take time, and revenue might be lost in the interim, but in the long run the industry should be looking to harness the new technology to its own ends. New market forces could be dangerous — but they also contain the promise of a new market altogether.

Nap: ESCUDO

(2.00 York)

Next best: Shawm

(3.30 York)

decipherable and untraceable."

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My Emma, left, who had two group one successes including a Yorkshire Oaks victory over Whitewater Affair, has been retired

Guest calls it a day with My Emma

RAE GUEST, the Newmarket trainer, announced yesterday that his Yorkshire Oaks winner, My Emma, has run her last race. After consulting with her owner Ian Matthews, he has called a halt to the filly's career after her run in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp.

The four-year-old had been a leading fancy for the Arc after her impressive victory at York in August, but she slipped and banged herself a couple of weeks before Sunday's race. Guest won his battle to get her fit for

the Longchamp showpiece but his filly could finish only eleventh of 18 behind Peintre Celebre.

"My Emma has been retired," the trainer said. "She has returned home sound and eaten up but the problems she has had over the last couple of weeks getting her ready for the Arc have proved too much for her. This was always likely to be her last race and she now retires the winner of two group one races."

My Emma first leapt to prominence when she sprang a 29-1

surprise under Cash Asmusen in the group one Prix Vermeille at Longchamp in September of last year.

Darryll Holland took over riding duties this year when the filly followed up with a 34-length defeat of Whitewater Affair in the Yorkshire Oaks. My Emma won three of her eight starts, earning nearly £220,000 in prize-money.

Britain's potential challenge for next month's Foster's Melbourne Cup was cut to three yesterday. Arabian

Story, Clerkenwell and Harbour Dues were the only horses from this country left in Australia's most famous race at the second elimination stage. A total of eight British runners were taken out of the contest, notably Double Trigger, Double Eclipse and Grey St.

Arabian Story is set to carry 8st 6lb at Flemington, the same weight as Lady Herries' dual recent Scandinavian winner Harbour Dues, with the Michael Stoute-trained Clerkenwell on 8st 4lb.

Thunderer continues winning run

THUNDERER was in tremendous form yesterday. He found all six winners at Plumpton, including Paper Star (9-2), at Warwick, he was on the mark with Grace Browning (10-1), Fighting Times (2-1) and Blewbury Hill (9-4), while Smokey From Claplaw (8-1) and Polar Prospect (5-1) were among his four winning selections at Redcar.

3.30 CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE HANDICAP

(2-0-0; 55.75; 12 runners)

401 (10) 0550011 CELESTIAL KEY 10 (J.F.) (M. J. Johnson) 7-9-7 J. Weaver 89
402 (10) 040416 HIND 48 (J.F.) (S. J. Brown) 3-9-6 L. Chapman 89
403 (10) 040416 HIND 48 (J.F.) (S. J. Brown) 3-9-6 L. Chapman 89
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BETTING: 4-1 Shawm, 6-1 Shawm, 7-1 Shawm, 8-1 Shawm, 9-1 Shawm, 10-1 Shawm, 11-1 Shawm, 12-1 Shawm, 13-1 Shawm, 14-1 Shawm, 15-1 Shawm, 16-1 Shawm, 17-1 Shawm, 18-1 Shawm, 19-1 Shawm, 20-1 Shawm, 21-1 Shawm, 22-1 Shawm, 23-1 Shawm, 24-1 Shawm, 25-1 Shawm, 26-1 Shawm, 27-1 Shawm, 28-1 Shawm, 29-1 Shawm, 30-1 Shawm, 31-1 Shawm, 32-1 Shawm, 33-1 Shawm, 34-1 Shawm, 35-1 Shawm, 36-1 Shawm, 37-1 Shawm, 38-1 Shawm, 39-1 Shawm, 40-1 Shawm, 41-1 Shawm, 42-1 Shawm, 43-1 Shawm, 44-1 Shawm, 45-1 Shawm, 46-1 Shawm, 47-1 Shawm, 48-1 Shawm, 49-1 Shawm, 50-1 Shawm, 51-1 Shawm, 52-1 Shawm, 53-1 Shawm, 54-1 Shawm, 55-1 Shawm, 56-1 Shawm, 57-1 Shawm, 58-1 Shawm, 59-1 Shawm, 60-1 Shawm, 61-1 Shawm, 62-1 Shawm, 63-1 Shawm, 64-1 Shawm, 65-1 Shawm, 66-1 Shawm, 67-1 Shawm, 68-1 Shawm, 69-1 Shawm, 70-1 Shawm, 71-1 Shawm, 72-1 Shawm, 73-1 Shawm, 74-1 Shawm, 75-1 Shawm, 76-1 Shawm, 77-1 Shawm, 78-1 Shawm, 79-1 Shawm, 80-1 Shawm, 81-1 Shawm, 82-1 Shawm, 83-1 Shawm, 84-1 Shawm, 85-1 Shawm, 86-1 Shawm, 87-1 Shawm, 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Shawm, 1012-1 Shawm, 1013-1 Shawm, 1014-1 Shawm, 1015-1 Shawm, 1016-1 Shawm, 1017-1 Shawm, 1018-1 Shawm, 1019-1 Shawm, 1020-1 Shawm, 1021-1 Shawm, 1022-1 Shawm, 1023-1 Shawm, 1024-1 Shawm, 1025-1 Shawm, 1026-1

Big fine awaits Collymore at Villa

By Richard Hobson

STAN COLLYMORE could be given a £25,000 fine when he returns to Aston Villa from England duty next week. Collymore was dismissed against Bolton Wanderers four days ago and Brian Little, the Villa manager, who has delayed imposing punishment until after the World Cup game in Rome, is likely to fine his troubled striker the equivalent of two weeks' wages.

Collymore threw a punch at Andy Todd and already faces a three-match ban, putting him out of the FA Cup Premiership fixtures against Wimbledon, Arsenal and Chelsea.

"Whatever the fine will be between the player and manager, Stan has got no defence and must accept the consequences," Little said. Collymore will, however, be available for the Uefa Cup second-round, first-leg match against Athletic Bilbao on October 21, which falls during his domestic ban.

Steve Stone is ready to pledge his long-term future to Nottingham Forest after talks in London between Paul Stretford, his agent, and club officials. The midfielder player, capped nine times by England before a serious knee injury last year, has agreed a five-year contract with the Nationwide League first division leaders. Stone, 26, is due to make his comeback after five weeks out with a hernia injury in a reserve game against Liverpool tonight.

Andy Townsend, the Ireland captain, will miss the World Cup qualifying group game against Romania in Dublin on Saturday because of a knee injury. Tommy Wright and Danny Griffin have pulled out of the Northern Ireland squad for the group match in Portugal or similar reasons, while England have lost Marcus Tall, Michael Duberry and Bruce Dyer for their European under-21 championship qualifying tie against Italy in Bari, again because of injury.

Finals in France may represent last chance for experienced England players

Ince confronts a shrinking world

OLIVER HOLT



on the determination of the old brigade

SOME of the England squad turned down the chance of a fishing trip on Monday afternoon and went to the cinema instead. They watched a film about a group of men striving to overcome past disappointments and rescue their self-esteem with one grand strut on the big stage. Some of those who made their way back to their hotel at Burnham Beeches that evening found themselves identifying with the characters in *The Full Monty*. In the days since Manchester United's victory over Juventus last week, the old-timers in the squad have watched as observers penned their paeans of praise to youth and rejoiced in the fact that Gary Neville, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt are ready to lead English football into the brightest of futures.

They have listened as Neville and Beckham, intoxicated by the confidence of never having known failure, made bold by the expectation of success, spoke bullishly about the time having come for England to make their actions speak louder than their words. They have heard them talk about how there is nothing to fear from men such as Gianfranco Zola and Paolo Maldini, how they are nothing special.

They know, too, that if England fail in Rome and fall by the wayside in the play-offs, Neville and Beckham and players such as Robbie Fowler



Le Saux, who underlined the threat presented by Zola, poses at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

and Steve McManaman will have other chances to qualify for the World Cup finals. For them, though, Japan and South Korea in 2002 will be a tournament too far. Italy versus England in Rome is their last chance and they have to take it.

In the end, it was Paul Ince who spoke out for the old brigade at Bisham Abbey yesterday. He pointed out that Tony Adams, for all the effort he has given, all the blood and sweat that he has shed, has

never played in the World Cup. Teddy Sheringham has never appeared on football's biggest stage either, nor has Ian Wright, for so long one of England's most celebrated exponents of the striking art.

All of them, Ince said, know that this is their last chance to make it. The finals, with their four-year cycle, drop heavy hints of mortality for a player's career each time they come around and the Liverpool captain said that, even at

29, he was vulnerable to them, too.

"People say to me that there is still the next time for me," Ince said, "but I know that realistically that is not true. There are other younger players coming through in midfield positions all the time, people like Barry and Becks, and I will be 34 next time. I think maybe the more experienced players will be even more keyed up for the game in Rome because we realise how much is at stake.

"This is my time. This is the chance for me to go out knowing that I achieved everything I aimed for. I have looked round the squad and seen Teddy, Tony and Wright and for us to end our careers knowing that we have never appeared in the World Cup is unthinkable. That is the pinnacle for everybody and this time I feel a lot stronger and better equipped to deal with it.

"I have had a great career and I have won a lot but this is something I need more than anything else. It is the sort of thing you can point to when you have retired and enjoy. Too many times in the past we have come so close but failed. Against Germany in Euro 96 and Holland in 1993, we have been right on the edge but not near enough. Now this is the best chance we have of putting the record straight."

Almost as if to fit in with this older, wiser mood of circumspection, much of the talk at the camp yesterday, the eve of the departure for Rome, centred around the damage to the dream of qualification that could be wrought by Zola.

If others have attempted to knock him down in recent days, he was built up yesterday.

"Whether he is playing well or not," Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said, "Zola can always change it with a bit

'For us to end our careers without playing in the World Cup is unthinkable'

of magic. We have those types of players as well but he is a major threat. We have learnt certain things about him by watching him week in and week out at Chelsea, like how much possession he gets from throw-ins. That little bit of genius he has got — you never know when that is going to happen."

Graeme Le Saux, another who, particularly with the emergence of Phil Neville, might be facing his last chance to make England's starting line-up in a World Cup, also devoted his thoughts to his Chelsea team-mate.

After paying tribute to Zola, both as a person and a player, Le Saux was asked if he read any significance into the fact that the diminutive Italian had been spotted recently carrying a John Le Carré novel under his arm. "That is for him to stand on," Le Saux said.

Referee for Rome confirmed by Fifa

By Russell Kempson

MARIO VAN DER ENDE, of Holland, has been reconfirmed as the referee for England's World Cup match against Italy in Rome on Saturday. Fifa, the sport's world governing body, said yesterday that it saw no reason to reconsider his appointment for the vital group two qualifying fixture. A newspaper report at the weekend suggested Van der Ende might not be suitable to take charge because of his liking of all things Italian, which he admitted in a recent article in a Dutch magazine. Van der Ende, 41, a part-time teacher, was also said to be a close friend of an Italian member of Fifa's referees' commission.

"Mario has refereed many big matches over the past few years," a Fifa spokesman said yesterday. "There's a major difference between having a general liking for a country and giving it an advantage out on the pitch. This story is too far-fetched to think about."

Ryan Giggs, the Manchester United winger, could lead Wales in their group seven qualifying match against Belgium in Brussels on Saturday. With Gary Speed, the captain, and Mark Hughes, his probable replacement, suspended, Giggs, 23, is favourite to become the youngest player to lead the Principality side Mike England, the Tottenham Hotspur centre half, was given the honour when he was 22.

Adrian Williams could play in two games this weekend. He travels with the Wales squad for the qualifying game against Belgium on Saturday, while Wolverhampton Wanderers are making special arrangements to fly the central defender home from Brussels ahead of the official return journey to enable him to play in the Nationwide League first division game against Birmingham City on Sunday.

CRICKET: SUSSEX FAVOURED TO CAPTURE SERVICES OF THE AUSTRALIA LEG SPINNER AFTER PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS

Warne doubts removed

By Simon Wilde

JUSTIN ROBERTSON, the agent for Shane Warne, has intimated that the Australian leg spinner will not, after all, be playing county cricket in England next year. Robertson, who is based in Australia, has assured the three counties vying for Warne's services that he will definitely sign for one of them.

The patience of officials at Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Sussex, was wearing thin two weeks ago when Warne put back his self-appointed deadline on a decision for a fifth time: he had originally said he would make a decision at the end of July, in the middle of the Test series in England. One club official had

said: "I would be half-surprised if he came to anybody." But Robertson has been in touch with the counties to reassure them of Warne's intentions and his verdict is expected within the next ten days. It could even come as early as the weekend in a Sunday tabloid newspaper.

"I spoke briefly to Austin last week and it is simply a matter of Shane making a decision," Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said yesterday.

"It's a frustrating time at the moment but his agent has said that he is 100 per cent sure to play county cricket next year," David Gilbert, the new Sussex director of cricket, said.

The arrival of Gilbert, an Australian, at Hove has strengthened the view that Sussex will win the race. Their offer is being brokered by Tony Greig, now resident in Australia, and includes the captaincy. Warne wants to work with developing players and the coast may suit his young family.

Pakistan grateful for impact made by Test newcomers

By Our Sports Staff

PAKISTAN unveiled another impressive new arrival on the international stage on the second day of the first Test against South Africa in Rawalpindi. Azhar Mahmood followed the century scored by Ali Naqvi, who is also making his debut, by scoring 72 not out.

His innings helped Pakistan to reach 345 for nine in their first innings. The 29 scored by Mohammad Ramzan meant that three newcomers have contributed 216 of Pakistan's total. Mahmood helped Pakistan to recover from 231 for eight as he shared in a ninth-wicket partnership of 74 with Waqar Younis, who made 45, his best Test score.

Mahmood, an all-rounder, struck a six and five fours in his 173-ball innings while Waqar was in a more attacking mood, hitting five fours and two sixes from the 81 balls that he faced. He passed his

previous best of 34, against New Zealand at Christchurch in 1995-96, by hitting Allan Donald for a six over the long-leg boundary.

However, Waqar had a taste of his own medicine when he was trapped leg-

before by an inswinging yorker by Shaun Pollock. After the departure of Waqar, Mahmood found another dependable partner in Mushtaq Ahmed and the pair added 40 runs.

Pakistan resumed on 216 for six but soon lost two wickets. Mooin Khan was first to go when Donald, after a barrage of bouncers, bowled one of full length to dismiss him leg-before for 12. Saqlain Mushtaq went in the same manner before he had scored to give Pollock a third wicket.

The South Africa attack was depleted after Brett Schultz, the left-arm pace bowler, sustained a shoulder injury while fielding and was unable to bowl.

"Brett had complained of a little pain in the shoulder last evening but when he got up this morning, he found that he just couldn't move his bowling shoulder," S.K. Reddy, the South Africa manager, said.

SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings
 "Saqlain Mushtaq b Donald 16
 Ali Naqvi c Kirsten b Donald 115
 Mohammad Ramzan lbw b Pollock 29
 Azhar Mahmood b Symcox 11
 Mushtaq Ahmed c Richardson b Schultz 4
 Mohammad Wasim c Kirsten b Symcox 11
 Mooin Khan lbw b Donald 12
 Azhar Mahmood not out 72
 Sachin Mahmood b Pollock 79
 Waqar Younis lbw b Pollock 45
 Mushtaq Ahmed not out 6
 Extras (b 2, lb 7, nb 11) 20
 Total (9 wickets) 345
 FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-114, 3-135, 4-156, 5-196, 6-206, 7-280, 8-221, 9-305
 BOWLING: Donald 29.1-3-95-3, Schultz 15-4-55-1, Pollock 31.1-4-82-3, Mahmood 11-4-2-0, Symcox 38-10-41-2, Kallis 7-5-15-0, Cronje 4-0-13-0
 SOUTH AFRICA: G Kirsten, A M Barnes, H J Kallis, D J Cullinan, T W J Coenre, B M McMillan, S M Pollock, T J Richardson, P L Symcox, A A Donald, B N Schultz, Umpires: S Venkataraghavan (India) and Javed Akhtar (Pakistan)

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TENNIS: HUBER BATTLES HARD BUT FAILS TO REPEAT HER EARLIER TRIUMPHS

Steady Fernandez turns on the power

By Our Sports Staff

MARY JOE FERNANDEZ, of the United States, defeated Anke Huber, the former champion, of Germany, 6-4, 6-4 yesterday in a first-round match at the Floderstadt WTA tournament.

Huber, who won there in 1991 and 1994 and was a finalist last year, fought hard in a match which lasted an hour and 23 minutes, taking both sets to 4-4 after coming from behind, but it was not enough to overcome the steady baseline play of Fernandez.

Huber, sixth in the world rankings and seeded sixth here, was a break down when she drew level in the eighth game of the first set, breaking service. But Fernandez, of Miami, rebroke in the ninth and held her own service to win in 40 minutes.

The second set was a similar story. Fernandez took a quick 3-0 lead but Huber broke back in the fourth and eighth games to tie at 4-4 again.

Fernandez remained calm firing steady baseline shots waiting for the German to make mistakes. She broke Huber's service in the ninth game after fighting from duce four times, then held her own in the tenth to take the match.

Anna Kournikova, of Russia,

produced a fine display to beat Barbara Schett, of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 in the first round.

Lorna Woodroffe, of Surrey, heads the British team that will be seeking a record fifth successive win over the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy in Manchester, October 23 to 25.

Louise Latimer of Warwickshire, Abigail Tordoff, of Kent, and the Essex duo, Mandy Wainwright and Amanda Jones complete the British team captained by the former Wimbledon champion, Ann Jones, in this annual match for players of 21 and under.



Kournikova, of Russia, powering her way to a first-round win over Schett, of Austria

Indian police extend match-fixing inquiry

INDIAN police are to extend investigations into allegations of match-fixing and illegal betting in cricket after a series of arrests in Calcutta. District superintendent of police, Surajit Kar Purakayastha, said the investigation, which is taking place at the same time as an independent inquiry into allegations that Indian players have been involved in fixing results, would be extended to other cities including Delhi and Bombay. He added that there was no evidence of leading players being involved.

An independent inquiry by a former chief justice of India, which has been backed by India's cricket administrators, was launched earlier this year into alleged player involvement in match-fixing. It followed claims by the former India all-rounder, Manoj Prabhakar, that he was offered money by a team-mate to ensure that India lost to Pakistan in a limited-overs tournament in 1994.

Television go-ahead

FOOTBALL: The Football Association last night stressed that there would be no formal objection to Scotland's World Cup fixture with Latvia being broadcast live on Saturday. With the rights to the Scotland game being sold to Channel 5 rather than BBC Scotland, it means that the match — a 3.00pm kick-off at Celtic Park — will be broadcast throughout Great Britain, instead of Scotland alone, and is now in direct competition with Nationwide League matches.

Although the English Football League voiced concern about the match being televised, it has been agreed that its importance should override concerns about its effect on Nationwide League attendances. If Scotland win, they will qualify for the finals in France next year.

Munro impresses

ORIENTEERING: Heather Munro, of Great Britain, won the Park World Tour race in Cesky Krumlov yesterday, beating Lucy Bohm, of Austria, the world short-course champion, into second place. The series leader, Gunilla Svard, from Sweden, finished third. Competitors raced through the twisting streets of the picturesque Czech town and Munro's time of 18min 47sec beat Bohm by almost half a minute, consolidated her in third place in the overall standings and moved her within range of the silver-medal position before the series finale through the streets of Venice on Saturday.

Global ambition

CRICKET: China, Japan and other Asia-Pacific countries are to be the target of a crusade led by Australia and New Zealand to find new cricket nations. Malcolm Speed, the Australian Cricket Board's new chief executive, outlined the project at the launch of the Australian season at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. "This is part of the International Cricket Council's push to make cricket a global game," he said. "We are looking at a number of potential countries where we might seek to develop the game, and these include China and Japan, with their huge populations."

Repeat performance

TENNIS: Jonathan Stark, the defending champion from the United States, beat his compatriot, Michael Chang, 7-6, 7-6 in the second round of the Heineken Open in Singapore yesterday. The two had met in the final of the tournament last year, when Stark also won in straight sets. Stark now meets Jiri Novak, of the Czech Republic. Marcelo Rios, of Chile, had an easier second-round match against Justin Gimelstob, the young American, winning 6-2, 6-4.

هكذا من لايمل



Montgomerie, watched by the Lynne Truss, right, displays his technique yesterday while preparing for the Toyota World Match Play Championship

Hunger drives not-so-full Monty

Lynne Truss enjoys a tasty portion of golfing and dietary advice from Colin Montgomerie at Wentworth

Now I don't want to get too technical here. Either you find this sort of thing interesting or you don't. But yesterday morning at Wentworth, Colin Montgomerie gave a really dangerous tip to a dozen amateurs.

"I always do the full backswing," he explained first, drawing the club back, grip in place, weight distributed, head down. And then, as the clubhead dangled ahead of him, a few degrees below the horizontal, he said: "And then when I see the clubhead out of the corner of my eye, I say: 'That's it. Go.'"

This may not be big news to many people, but to several of us listening, it was dynamite. "You mean to say, you take your eye off the ball?" we marvelled, remembering every single golf instruction manual that tells you never — ever — to look up. "I know, I know," he said, "but it's only for an instant."

"For me, it's part of the timing. I see the clubhead and: 'That's it. Go.' Besides, you don't need to look at the ball in order to hit it." At which point,

with absolute assurance, he closed his eyes and knocked a six-iron further than our open eyes could follow it.

This was a golf clinic organised by Ebel (the Swiss watch people) and watched by a tiny crowd on Wentworth's damp practice ground, before the big Toyota World Match Play Championship starts later on this week.

Monty was relaxed and chatty, answering anarchy questions about his clubs, showing us his loose putting grip, not even backdoored by well-meant observations beginning with those dread trigger words "major", "won", "never" and "you've". At one point, he indicated Ernie Els behind us on the driving range, wheeling his arms in that beautiful, effortless arc of his. "Ernie doesn't hit the ball," he said, approvingly. "The ball just gets in the way."

We nodded. We laughed. We felt very, very humble. Blimey, why didn't anyone ever tell me Colin Montgomerie was so nice?

Whether such a nice chap should be playing merry bananas with the orthodoxes dinned into us amateur golfers is another matter, of course.

along the lines of "Izzy Whizzy Let's Get Busy".

Yet here he was preaching all sorts of heresies, such as to glance up, hit with our eyes closed, don't swivel your hips, forget your hands and above all (impossible), don't think about more than two of these things at once.

In this week of build-up to the uncertainties of Rome, it's nice to see someone so happily trailing clouds of glory as Monty was yesterday. Compared with a major tournament,

'We play for five hours a day, which leaves 19 for eating. Look, there's a burger van ...'

Personally, I know that if I looked up to check the clubhead before commencing the downswing, I would get vertigo and fall over backwards, topping the ball in the process. What we secretly wanted Monty to tell us, I suspect, was the same old "Head down and don't press" but with a patent Celtic incantation to recite mentally —

he says, the pressure of a Ryder Cup is "times ten" — Ernie Els may have a fabulous swing, but he's never looked down the barrel of the Ryder Cup's 1st tee.

Monty, tells us that, at Valderrama, the American team had a banner in their team room proclaiming: "Losing is worse than death", which he thinks (and I agree

wholeheartedly) may have been counter-productive, encouragement-wise.

Finally, I can't suppress the big question any more. "Colin, I blurt. 'How did you lose 38lbs in a fortnight?' 'I kept my mouth shut,' he says, and gets a big laugh. The true figure, it turns out, was 20lbs in 17 days, which he says he achieved just through ignoring the siren calls of junk food.

"You see, we play golf for five hours a day, which leaves well, 19 for eating. There's a burger van over there," he adds, and there is, he's right, good heavens, he's spotted one.

"Does the loss of weight affect the golf, though?" I persist. "I mean, you need weight behind the shot, don't you?" But he is quick to realise what's happening here — that an over-large woman is fishing for a novel excuse not to diet. "I played through it," he assures me. "Losing a lot of weight all at once can affect people's golf, yes. But personally I was fine." "Thanks, Colin," I mean to say, but somehow it comes out "Damn."

SAILING: FRENCHMAN DOMINATES FIRST LEG OF SINGLE-HANDED TRANSATLANTIC RACE

Bad luck dogs MacArthur

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MARK TURNER and Ellen MacArthur, the two Britons competing in the Mini-Transat single-handed transatlantic race, have enjoyed mixed fortunes in the first leg, with MacArthur finishing in 26th place when she sailed into Tenerife yesterday.

The race has been a learning experience that has left

MacArthur disappointed but still determined to improve in the 2,700-mile second leg to Martinique, which starts on October 19, and to go on from there into a campaign for the Around Alone single-handed round-the-world race next year.

Her troubles stemmed from rushed preparation, which itself resulted from a lack of adequate sponsorship money until very shortly before the

start. As a result MacArthur, found herself a mile from the start line at Brest, hoisting a new spinnaker that she had not even had time to take out of its sailbag. It was only then that she discovered that it had been made to about three-quarters of its required size.

"It was a disaster. I almost cried when I saw it," she said yesterday while having lunch with Turner, who finished on Monday afternoon, in ninth place. "That spinnaker was unlucky from the start," she added. "Every time I put it up something went wrong."

Turner, sailing a boat that he chartered only 12 days before the start, has done well to finish in the top ten. With the race scored on total elapsed time, a top-five finish is certainly within his grasp.

However, he will be hoping for atypical trade-wind conditions on the next leg, with as much reaching and upwind work as possible since his boat, *Carphone Warehouse*, tends to bury her nose going downwind, as a result of her keel being fractionally too far forward.

The first-leg winner, and by a good margin, was Sébastien Maignen, of France. Another of the favourites, the Frenchman Thomas Coville, did well to reach Tenerife in sixth place after losing both his spinnakers in the first three days.

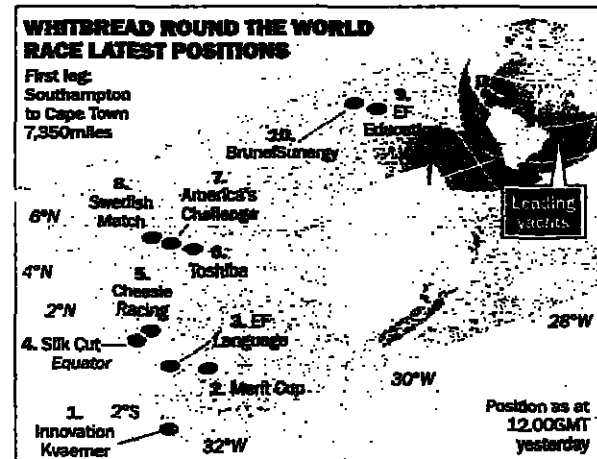
Dutch make pitstop to repair whale damage

AS THE leaders in the Whitbread Round the World Race converge on the island of Fernando de Noronha 200 miles off the Brazilian coast, the crew in last-placed *BruneiSunery* have decided to make a "pitstop" in Recife, to replace their rudder (Edward Gorman writes).

Hans Bouschoote, the skipper, took the decision which effectively puts the Dutch boat out of the first leg, after the boat was damaged last Sunday when it hit a whale.

Innovation Kuerner, Merit Cup and *EF Language*, the fleet leaders, are beating into freshening headwinds of up to 20 knots as they race towards Fernando de Noronha which they leave to port, before heading south-south-east towards the second rounding point of Trinidad from where they turn south-east towards Cape Town.

Silk Cut, the British boat skippered by Lawrie Smith, remains in fourth place ahead of *Chessie Racing*.



DISTANCE TO FINISH (with miles to Cape Town): 1. Innovation Kuerner (Nor) 3,781; 2. Merit Cup (Monaco) 3,787; 3. EF Language (Sve) 3,801; 4. Silk Cut (GB) 3,808; 5. Chessie Racing (US) 3,915; 6. Tostiba (US) 4,071; 7. America's Challenge (US) 4,083; 8. Swedish Match (US) 4,116; 9. EF Language (Sve) 4,282; 10. BruneiSunery (Nor) 4,281.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

HELLION

(c) Also *hellyon*. US colloquial. A troublesome or disreputable person; a mischievous child. Probably a variant of the Scottish *hellyon*, a scurvy knave or scullion.

MOPPIE

(c) A street song of the Cape Malays. The Afrikaans adaptation of the Dutch *mopje* a ditty. "Moppies are little songs (often of doubtful content) sung in order to challenge, deride, or irritate the listener, or merely as a foolery. When singing a moppie, the singer often includes a person's name, and if the person referred to cannot respond in similar vein, he is laughed at by all present."

HEKTE

(c) An Ancient Greek silver coin. "The sixth" (sc. *moira* part) of a stater. "An ektremion hekte with the type of a crouching lion and a helmetlike with the type of a winged monster."

LUNGOMPA

(c) A Tibetan monk who is believed to have the mystical power of walking many miles at great speed without stopping. Transliteration of the Tibetan. "Luang-gom-pa" are the "wind men" — monks who, after years of extreme asceticism and strenuous preparation, succeed in freeing themselves almost completely from the weight of the human frame and are therefore able to travel hundreds of miles in a single day."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qg2+ 2 Qg2 Rd1+ 3 Ng1 Bxg2+ and Black wins easily on material.



GUY TOWNSEND. RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT.
SAVES THE TOP JOBS FOR THE WEEKEND.

NAME: GUY TOWNSEND
9 TO 5 HEADLINTER
LIVES FOR ROCK CLIMBING
WEARS ATLANTIC SPORT

Urbanising the cougar

Animal People: Mountain Lion
BBC1, 7.00pm

America's big cat is coming in from the wild. For centuries the mountain lion, or cougar, was hunted and killed. Now hunting is widely banned and as urban sprawl threatens its natural territory the mountain lion is regularly to be found in streets and gardens looking for food. This is no fox or badger but a dangerous beast that can kill an animal eight times its size. Deer, livestock and pet are its favoured targets but it goes for human beings as well. Children are most at risk, though so far there have been no fatalities. Nathaniel Moore, a 12-year-old who was seriously injured in an attack, is maturely philosophical: "I don't hate mountain lions. He was just hungry." Iris Kenna, a Californian schoolteacher, was less fortunate, savaged and killed while walking in a park. Another woman, pursued by two lions, made her escape by climbing up a tree.

The Nazis — A Warning From History
BBC2, 9.00pm

First-hand accounts continue to provide the most arresting material as Laurence Rees's series reaches the Holocaust. To the big question posed at the start, how such barbarity could have happened, the film struggles to provide an answer. The timing is easier to pinpoint. Persecuting Jews was one thing. Planning their systematic extermination was something else. Rees suggests that the key to this radical change in policy was the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. The killing squads were directed by Reinhold Heydrich, a cold-blooded murderer who excelled great charm, as one elderly female witness recalls. But the most chilling testimony comes from a member of one of the squads who can neither explain why he shot Jews, nor express guilt.

Witness: Drancy
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Last week the Roman Catholic Church in France publicly apologised to the country's Jews for its complicity in 75,000 Holocaust deaths. The plea to "bear our words of repentance" was made from Drancy, the site of a wartime concentration camp in Paris. Originally designed as a housing estate,



A mountain lion (BBC1, 7.00pm)

Drancy was used between 1942 and 1944 as temporary accommodation for 75,000 French Jews who were deported to Nazi death camps. Only 2,500 survived. This is the timely repeat of a Witness film shown two years ago which explores the background to the Holocaust in France. It shows how the French police were implemented by the Vichy Government. The story is told through the first-hand accounts of survivors and bystanders and embellished with archive footage.

The Rugby Club
BBC2, 9.50pm

Those with no interest in sport, let alone rugby union, may already have dismissed this series but its theme is a compelling one which goes far beyond the field of play. Using Bath's 1996-97 season for illustration, the programmes chart the impact of the sudden switch to professionalism on a previously amateur game. Money now rules, which means marketing men, television deals, a new logo, and even greater pressure on the players to perform. Tonight's episode follows Bath's first European Cup campaign, which ends in defeat at Cardiff. There is rumbling behind the scenes, as the old amateur committee tries to beat down wings the new players and star players find their place. Drancy, the site of a wartime concentration camp in Paris. Originally designed as a housing estate,

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The House in Galloway Lane
Radio 4, 2.00pm

The second series featuring Sir Donald Sinden as Dr Gideon Fell, the unconventional "detective" created by the novelist John Dickson Carr. The mark of Fell's work is a surreal, magical quality and he is a dab hand at solving crimes that defy logic. *The House in Galloway Lane* is a two-parter (continuing next Wednesday) which is taken from the novel *The Death of Dr. Fell*. It is set in 1936 and concerns the consequences of a fortune-teller making a series of startling and accurate predictions, including the presence in a village of a poisoner, engaged to a local man, who is supposed to have done away with three husbands already. John Hartley plays Superintendent Hadley, and Richard Todd and Robert Portal also appear.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 3.00pm Mark Goodier 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Evening Session 8.30pm Trade Update 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Dave Navarro 4.00pm Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Rowe 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00pm Nick Barnard 8.00pm Folk 8.00pm Pops and News 8.30pm Gail 10.00pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden My Life in Film 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Steve Madden

RADIO 3

6.00am Breakfast Programme 8.00pm The Magazine 12.00pm Midday 2.00pm Focus on Five 4.00pm Newsweek 7.00pm News 7.30pm Football Night 10.00pm Ulster 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night 5.00pm Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Nick Abbot 10.00am Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00pm FM Robin Barrie AM Nicky Home 7.00pm FM Paul Coyne AM Calm Jones 10.00am Mark Forster 2.00pm Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGilton 9.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Louise Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Deely 7.00pm Anne Rasmus 9.00pm James White 1.00pm Ian Collins

RADIO 5

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes: Sporch (Violin Concerto No 8 in A minor); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A); 8.00am Morning Collection, includes Monteverdi (Laudate Dominum); Handel (Oboe Concerto No 3 in G minor); Beethoven (Grosse Fuge); 10.00am Contemporary, includes: William Walton (Symphony No 10); Richard Strauss (Concerto for Piano and Orchestra); 12.00pm Composers of the Week: Debussy, Stravinsky and their Contemporaries, with Christopher Page; 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. London Winds, Lissel (Soprano); Francaix (Quartet for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon); Nielsen (Wind Quintet); 2.00pm Midweek Choral, with Susan Sharpe; 4.00pm Choral Evening, live from Rochester Cathedral; 5.00pm In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Includes Copland (Fanfare for the Common Man); Tippett (Concerto for Double String Orchestra);

RADIO 6

5.55am (LW) Shipping 6.00am News 6.10am Farming Today 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today 6.45am Running in the Family (RS) 6.55am Weather 8.00am News 8.05am Midweek, with the Times columnist Libby Purves and guests 10.00am (LW) Daily Service 10.15am (LW) On This Day 10.30am Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30am Gardeners' Question Time (G) 12.00pm News: Yes and You, with Lesley Hiddoch 12.25pm Eastern Mx (SR) 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (A) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm The House in Galloway Lane, The Fortune Teller. See Choice 2.45pm News: Letters from Here and There, Harry Ritchie reports from St Helena 3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Bracken 4.05pm Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini sees Gary Oldman's directorial debut *Nil by Mouth* 4.45pm Short Story: Now and Forever, by Lara Ciron

Late Night Opening
Radio 4, 11.00pm

This half-hour slot is now split into two 15-minute programmes. The first tonight brings the return of *The Shandorwits*, which is what can safely be called an acquired taste. For those who are unfamiliar with the work of Graham Fellows, who plays all the parts, it might reasonably be said that if you like Reeves and Mortimer there is every chance of liking Fellows. His John Shuttleworth persona is strangely appealing once one tunes in to the humour. *Grievous Bodily Injury* (pt 1.15) is the first series for Jon Holmes and Andy Hirst. The technique is much like sampler records, raising every form of broadcasting to offer a distorted, comedic "audio snapshot" of modern broadcasting as a whole.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30am Europe Today 7.00am News 7.15pm The World Today 7.30pm Sports International 8.00am News 8.15pm On the Shelf: The Portrait of a Lady 8.30pm Meridian News 8.30pm News: News in German (848 only) 9.10pm Focus for Thought 9.15pm Concert Hall 10.00pm News 10.05pm Business 10.15pm The Farming World 10.30pm Science File 10.45pm Sport 11.00pm Newsday 11.30pm One Planet 12.00pm Newsday 12.30pm Sports International 1.00pm News: News in German (848 only) 1.05pm Business 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm Soundbyte 2.00pm Newsday 3.00pm News 3.05pm Outlook 3.30pm Megarisk 4.00pm News 4.05pm Sport 4.15pm Performance 4.30pm Eyewitness News in German (848 only) 4.50pm Europe Today 4.55pm Business 4.55pm Newsday 5.00pm News 5.05pm The World Today 5.10pm From Our Own Correspondent: News in German (848 only) 5.15pm Sport 7.00pm Newsday 7.30pm The World Today 7.35pm Outlook 8.25pm Focus for Thought 8.30pm Meridian X-Press 8.30pm Newsday 10.00pm News 10.05pm Business 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm Screen 11.00pm Newsday 11.30pm The World Today 11.45pm Sport 12.00pm News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm Meridian X-Press 1.00pm Newsday 1.30pm From Our Own Correspondent 1.45pm Britain Today 2.00pm Newsday 2.30pm Corbis 3.00pm Newsday 3.30pm Meridian Books 4.00pm News 4.05pm Sport 4.15pm Sport 4.30pm Europe Today 5.00pm Newsday 5.30pm Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Martin 9.00am Henry Kelly 1.00pm Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones 2.00pm Concerto: Manuel de Falla (Nights in the Garden of Spain) 5.00pm Jamie Cook 7.00pm Newsday with John Bunting 7.30pm Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor) 8.00pm World Piano Competition, Richard Baker presents last night's grand final from London's Royal Festival Hall 10.00pm Michael Tippett 2.00pm Concerto (A) 5.00pm Mark Griffiths

RADIO 7

7.30 Performance on 3, Steven Issels, cello, Orchestra Revolutionnaire et Romantique under John Eliot Gardiner, Schumann (Overture, Genoveva; Cello Concerto in A minor; Symphony No 2 in C); 8.35 Postscript: Protections (3/5) 9.25 Foreword and Son, The Impresario John Henry plays character pieces by Antoine Forqueray; 10.00pm Elizabeth, Katherine Gowers, violin, and Charles Owen, piano; Beethoven (Violin Sonata in E-flat); Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor); 10.45pm Night Waves, the poet and biographer Andrew Motion talks to Richard Coles about his new study of Keats; 11.30pm Composers of the Week: Schumann, Berg and Mahler (Sounding the Century) (A) 12.30pm News and You, with Lesley Hiddoch; last night's grand final from London's Royal Festival Hall 1.00pm Through the Night, with Donald Macleod.

RADIO 8

5.55am (LW) Shipping 6.00am News 6.10am Farming Today 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today 6.45am Running in the Family (RS) 6.55am Weather 8.00am News 8.05am Midweek, with the Times columnist Libby Purves and guests 10.00am (LW) Daily Service 10.15am (LW) On This Day 10.30am Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30am Gardeners' Question Time (G) 12.00pm News: Yes and You, with Lesley Hiddoch 12.25pm Eastern Mx (SR) 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (A) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm The House in Galloway Lane, The Fortune Teller. See Choice 2.45pm News: Letters from Here and There, Harry Ritchie reports from St Helena 3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Bracken 4.05pm Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini sees Gary Oldman's directorial debut *Nil by Mouth* 4.45pm Short Story: Now and Forever, by Lara Ciron

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 198; RADIO 5, FM 94.8-96.8, LW 198; WORLD SERVICE, MW 645, LW 125 (12.45-5.55am); CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.5; MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1023, 1038. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Ubiquity, thy name is Carol Vorderman

No vets at all last night and only two Carol Vordermans. And they call this television? Vorderman One, of course, was *Countdown*, a show so addictive that at least one senior captain of industry takes his phone off the hook just so that he can watch her shuffle the consonants and vowels in peace.

Vorderman Two was... well, what it would be this time. More silly gadgets? Another vanload of antique experts? Not more normal nonsense, please? The nation held its breath. Music and... action! "Hello and welcome to a brand new series called..." Yes, yes? "Mysteries with me, Carol Vorderman." What a pro: she barely stumbled — "Mysteries with Carol Vorderman" (BBC1) it was.

And guess what mystery number one was? No, not how Vorderman manages to be on the television all the time (cleverly she

confesses in this week's *Radio Times* that it's because she is cheap) but what happened to Glenn Miller? "What really happened on that fateful day?" she asked, raising the tension to levels that were quite definitely imaginable.

Helped by a Miller nephew who was quite happy to ham it up for the cameras ("they say he lost his first game of poker in England") it turned out to be quite an interesting ten minutes. Had Miller's plane been taken out by friendly fire, as a returning bomber squadron dumped its unused payload over the Channel? Had he died in a warehouse, as a German writer alleged, for reasons that escaped me? Or had he simply gone away to die of an incurable wasting disease, as his nephew suggested?

Questions, questions, questions. Or, as Vorderman put it, as she stalked around an empty air museum: "In spite of our search

for absolute truth, much still happens that defies simple explanation." Such as how a scriptwriter who can come out with a line like that stays in employment. Mystery number two, otherwise known as the man who mistook a hernia for a tumour, and was so relieved when it wasn't he opted for surgery under hypnosis rather than anaesthetic, was even more exciting. For me anyway, as I discovered that I used to live two floors from the hypnotherapist. "Look, look, it's number 37," shouted Vorderman, by now stalking around an empty operating theatre, ignored me.

At least, for mystery three, she got to go to Florida and put on a summer frock. She was there to look at the curative effect that dolphins have on disabled children, a story that could have been swamped by sentiment. But the little girl at the centre of it

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

had had such an awful time (her twin sister, had been killed by Beverly Hills, while she was left brain-damaged) that if swimming with dolphins worked for her — as it clearly did — that was fine by me. Refreshingly, that also seemed the approach adopted by the experts. "What's your favourite animal?" asked our Carol. "Pigs," said the girl, firmly. Lovely. Six series and three episodes in

is no time to start explaining the plot of *Soldier, Soldier* (ITV), especially if you've missed large chunks of it. Suffice it to say, it's about soldiers, members of The King's Own Fusiliers, whose main attribute is that they seem to look younger every series. Last night's remarkable even by its own youthful standards until I realised that under the camouflage and helmets they really were schoolchildren. It was cadet day, or "sulky teenagers run away from home day" as it is known in Sergeant-Major Fitzpatrick's house. Even the principles headie seemed to be struggling to escape adolescence, an impression heightened when his siege of the army careers office came to a premature end because he needed a few puffs on his inhaler. But that's *Soldier, Soldier*, through and through — it's deliciously mundane. Its idea of domestic drama is a row about kitchen surfaces and as for last

night's final line — any guesses from those who didn't see it? "Never mind your dad, we'll have Gary round for tea next week." Who says the cliffhanger is dead?

Despite all this, I rather like *Soldier, Soldier* and the producers have done a good job of breathing new life into it with the help of some fresh faces. James Cosmo gives everything a certain edge as the bad-tempered, misogynist Colonel. Lucy Cohu brings beautifully as the reprimand Major Bailey and Chris Gascoyne confirms that it's not his performance that's wrong in *The Locksmith*, it's the writing. As Rossi, he's much better in this. But my current favourite is Michelle Butterly, whose Julie is fast turning into a Bianca. She already has the market stall, the hair and the attitude. If she could just do something about that accent.

On Channel 4, Black Bag kicked off a new series with a first-class documentary about female circumcision, a barbaric practice apparently given the prettier name of "cutting the rose". Produced by Liz Bloor, it was half investigative, half campaigning and, at all times, depressing. This was not so much because of the two men (one a doctor, one not) the programme unmasked as apparently willing to perform the illegal operation in this country, but because the girls are brought to them or taken back to their country of origin for a "holiday" by their mothers. Female circumcision is something women do to women and nobody seems inclined to stop them.

Many agencies, we learnt, are deterred from interfering by the religious or cultural significance that surrounds the practice. But, as one Somali woman brave enough to speak out about it, put it: "Culture is about ideas and knowledge, not mutilation."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (53885)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (2803311)
9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (3888855)
9.30 Style Challenge (2378525)
9.55 Kilroy (7) (437412)

10.35 Conservative Party Conference '97
Live coverage of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade and Industry debates (776811)

12.35pm Going for a Song (563717)
1.00 News (7) and weather (51330)
1.30 Regional News (7779883)
1.40 The Weather Show (7618106)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (7495175)
2.10 Quilley (7) (8417021)
3.30 Playdays (8131601) 3.50 ChuckleVision (812137) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (8308821) 4.35 Out of Tune (8543866)
5.00 Newsworld (7) (2217205) 5.10 Blue Peter (7) (9618330)

5.35 Neighbours (7) (763779)
6.00 News (7) and weather (563)
6.30 Regional News (7) (243)
7.00 **Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** (7) (763779)
Ant and Dec highlight the danger posed by mountain lions, which lurk in the backyards and driveways of suburban America (7) (8578)

7.30 Tomorrow's World
An amazingly simple, but devastatingly effective, cancer detector, which could save thousands of lives a year in Britain alone, and a report on digital terrestrial television (7) (427)

8.00 Crimebeat
Marty Lewis investigates how banks are fighting increased credit card fraud by adopting a French "smart-card" (7) (7224)

8.30 The National Lottery Live (7) (553137)
8.45 Points of View (7) (578088) Followed by the Nation's Favourite Love-Poem
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (8311)
9.25 National Lottery Live (7) (528412)
9.30 The X-Files: The Field Where I Died
Mulder meets a mysterious woman with multiple personalities, whom he believes is the reincarnation of a love from a past life (7) (313972)

10.15 Chalk
The staff welcome a new arrival to Galfest High, while Eric and Suzy seize the chance of making their dreams come true. Classroom comedy, starring David Bamber and Nicole Walker (7) (845330)

10.45 The Cover Girl Murders (1993) with Lee Majors
Six fashion models travel to a remote island paradise for a photo-shoot — and fall victim to a killer. Directed by James A. Contner (591311) Followed by the Nation's Favourite Love-Poem
WALKER: 10.45 A Touch of Classics (444601) 11.15 FILM: The Cover Girl Murders (435663) 12.00am FILM: Delusion (3589083) 2.10 News headlines and weather (8951441)

12.01am Delusion (1991) with Jim Metzler
Thriller about a computer whiz-kid who embroils a fortune teller's company's funds. Directed by Carl Colpaert (8600712)
1.40 Weather (1008996)

BBC2

6.00am Open University: What's All This Fine About IT? (51427)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (7) (912792)
7.15 Teleclub (7) (6025382) 7.40 Smurfs' Adventures (7) (409359) 8.00 The Really Wild Show (7) (7161358) 8.30 Penny Crayon (7535408) 8.40 Tales of Aesop (7298585) 8.45 Harry and the Hendersons (7) (721779)

9.10 What's Where? When? Why? (3635514)
9.25 English Express (7265555) 9.45 Words and Pictures (721040) 10.00 Teleclub (10585) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (897403) (8674853) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (897403) 11.00 Around Scotland (5481578) 11.20 The Geography Programme (6450779) 11.40 Revista (9465514) 11.55 Quiz Minute Plus (5881430) 12.10pm Isabel (5954224)

12.30 Working Lunch (19779) 1.00 Noddy (32567156) 1.10 The Countryside Hour (7741683) 2.10 News (7) (7747375)
2.15 Conservative Party Conference '97
Coverage of the party reform debate from Blackpool (803088)

3.55 News (7) and weather (388458) 4.00 Ready, Steady, Go! (156) 4.30 Going, Going, Gone (8942137) 4.55 Esther (8951868) 5.30 Today's the Day (382)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (7) (7) (806578)
6.45 Conference Talk (130408)
7.30 Conjuror Shakespeare Four groups perform the storm scene in *King Lear* (7) (898)

8.00 University Challenge (7) Sheffield take Aberdeen for a place in the quarter-finals (7) (5868)
8.30 The Antiques Show
Searching for old books in London's Brick Lane market; the booming trade in psychedelic art; the NEC antiques fair (7) (7601)

9.00 **The Nazis: A Warning from History**
The invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 was a catalyst for Hitler (7) (665175)

9.30 **Bath Rugby Club in action** (5.50pm)

9.50 **The Rugby Club: Into Europe**
Tensions begin to surface as Bath Rugby Club prepares for its most important challenge of the season: the start of the European Cup (7) (571069)

10.30 Newsworld (7) (401021)
11.15 Over the Edge (849156)
11.45 Last Time (53953)
12.25am Weather (106267)
12.30 Learning Zone: The Making of Bill Oddie (1017285) 12.45 Wildlife: Problems with Water (9816052) 1.10 Natural Navigators (412432) 1.35 Scaling the Salt Barrier (2378070) 2.00 Schools: TechnoJob Bank (32977) 4.50 The French Experience (544650) 5.00 RCN Nursing Update (36644)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Double Indemnity (1944) (1944) 4.30 The House of Wax (1953) (178053) 5.00 Flatliners (1989) (178278) 6.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 7.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 8.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 9.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 10.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 11.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 12.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 1.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 2.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 3.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 4.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 5.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 6.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 7.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 8.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 9.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 10.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 11.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 12.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 1.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 2.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 3.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 4.00 The Untouchables (1960) (178278) 5.00 The 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ICE HOCKEY 42

The 17-year-old aiming for his American Dream

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 1997

GOLF 46

Lynne Truss watches
Colin Montgomerie take
his eye off the ball



Midfield player's growing maturity able to offset England's loss of Ferdinand

Hoddle happy to put faith in Gascoigne

BY MATT DICKINSON

GLENN HODDLE'S catchphrase for the week, and one he has used a dozen times already, is "inner belief". The England coach has it in abundance and not even the first unsettling ripples could disturb his seemingly unshakable calm yesterday.

The first stone lobbed in his direction came when Les Ferdinand was forced to withdraw from the party that flies out to Rome this afternoon for the tumultuous World Cup qualifying match against Italy on Saturday. The Tottenham Hotspur striker has suffered a recurrence of a stomach strain, but it is a sign of England's confidence—and of the strength and depth of the squad—that Hoddle will have been less perturbed than Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager.

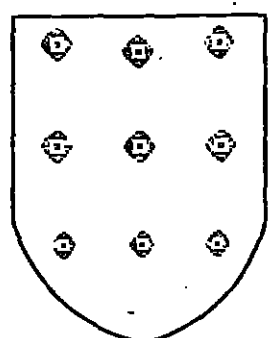
Almost inevitably, the second cause for concern centred on Paul Gascoigne, whose arrival in Rome this afternoon will provoke as much, and quite probably more, frenzy than if he was to wander unannounced along Oxford Street.

Hoddle has talked of careful plans to try to shield his players from the inevitable hype surrounding the match, and arriving at their hotel—where English newspapers will be banned—with three days to prepare is intended to cocoon the squad from external pressures.

In Gascoigne's case, such protection will be vital. The worst-case scenario being banded around Bisham Abbey yesterday was the unlikely prospect of the England midfielder player being met by a posse of Italian lawyers with writs to serve, stemming back to Gascoigne's spell in Rome with Lazio. One has reportedly been threatened by one member of the paparazzi still

chasing damages from an altercation outside a restaurant, while another writ is allegedly under consideration by tax investigators checking up on dozens of the country's millionaires.

Of more pressing interest will be the reception that Gascoigne receives from the Italian public, which never knew quite what to make of



Last chance 45
Troubled Collymore 45

his days as a Lazio player in the Olympic Stadium.

The impact of Gascoigne the footballer on Serie A was fiftiful during two seasons in which he showed only glimpses of his talent and badly injured himself in a training ground incident. Gascoigne the celebrity is an entirely different matter and his obvious desperation to succeed, combined with his well-reported off-field antics, made him a cult figure.

Either way, he will be the centre of frenzied attention when England arrive today, to be met by a host country equally consumed with passion for the final group two game, when England need only a draw to be sure of a place in the World Cup finals in France.

Hoddle is confident, though, that the 30-year-old

Rangers player is a changed man from the young, emotional international who wept in front of the Italian public during the 1990 finals. "Paul and I had a good chat when he arrived on Sunday," Hoddle said. "I don't think he will get carried away. He knows it will be a team effort if we are going to get the right result. From what I have seen, he is playing with his head, not his heart."

"The way he approached the Moldova game was different. I had not seen that before. He was a lot more focused, a lot quieter, and the performance showed it. Even the reaction after he scored, and on television afterwards, reflected that it was not the normal Gazza, and I think that is what we need."

"I think possibly he realises this could be his last chance of the world stage, although I believe players can go on until they are 35 or 36 if they look after themselves."

One player who will not be involved is Ferdinand, who visited a specialist yesterday morning after a scan confirmed that he may need a hernia operation, which could rule him out for up to two months. Hoddle, who seems certain to pair Ian Wright and Teddy Sheringham in attack, did not consider calling up a replacement, with Robbie Fowler, Stan Collymore and the two Pauls, Scholes and Merson, also in the squad.

"It would be a massive game for whoever we brought in and I am happy and secure with what we have got in that position," Hoddle said. "Les withdrawing is a blow because everything was looking plain sailing, but we have a 24-man squad and we will get by." Francis's reaction is likely to be considerably less philosophical.

The Tottenham manager was just daring to believe that the run of injuries that have destroyed his hopes for a settled team had come to an end, with Ferdinand and Chris Armstrong beginning to forge a partnership. Even Darren Anderton is believed to be within two weeks of a first-team return, but Ferdinand's injury is yet another grave setback.



Roman holiday: Paul Ince is persuaded to don gladiatorial garb at Bisham Abbey as the hype over England's World Cup match against Italy increases

Maldini personifies Italian unease

Brian Glanville reports from Florence on the form of the men who will oppose England on Saturday

At last the Florentines seem to have relaxed. Time was, not so long ago, that Italy's national team had to give up training at the football centre of Coverciano, on the outskirts of the city, so bitterly were they abused by Fiorentina supporters.

This because the core of the *Azzurri* came at that time from Juventus, the club most detested by Fiorentina fans. But though Juve still have several players in Cesare Maldini's squad, they are not as predominant as before. Some, such as Lombardo and Vieri, have gone to play abroad. An animus remains, but it has eased a little.

There is no doubt that the Italians are approaching the game against England with some trepidation in the image of Maldini, their coach. Journalists and supporters have been all too predictably quick to pillory him after victory at Wembley was followed by a series of stilted performances, including the costly goalless draws in Poland and Georgia. If Maldini could only relax,

could regain the tranquillity he had when he emerged from his favourite Milanese restaurant to take over the national team at 64, then his players could relax, in their turn.

As it is, they showed in the first half in Georgia that they have clearly seized up. Not because, as happened under the previous coach, Arrigo Sacchi, they are drilled into cautious schemes that do not suit them, but because things have somehow gone wrong and a different kind of caution, caused by fear rather than by tactics, has superseded it. It was all too plain in Tbilisi.

The good news for Maldini is that Christian Vieri, the centre forward, was in form last weekend for Atlético Madrid and that those two clever but criticised lightweights, Del Piero and Inzaghi, looked sharp for Juventus against Fiorentina. Nesta, of Lazio,



expected to take over at centre back for the injured Ferrara, also did well against Internazionale's formidable Ronaldo.

Nesta and Gascoigne: there is a history here. It was the wholly innocent Nesta, then just a Lazio junior, who inadvertently broke the England player's leg in a training game a few years back when Gascoigne, in one of those strange excesses of his, tried to

tackle him from behind when Nesta was in the act of shooting.

Less encouraging for Maldini was the poor form of Costacurta, his other central defender, for Milan against Empoli, while the loss of both Di Matteo, suspended, and Conte, his obvious replacement, injured, seriously weakens the midfield. Both the midfield men, Di Francesco and Di Biagio, played well in Roma's thrashing of Napoli in the Olympic Stadium on Sunday.

Maldini has called up another young centre back in Galante, of Internazionale, one of the players he brought out in his successful Italy Under-21 team. Galante, however, hardly seems ready for

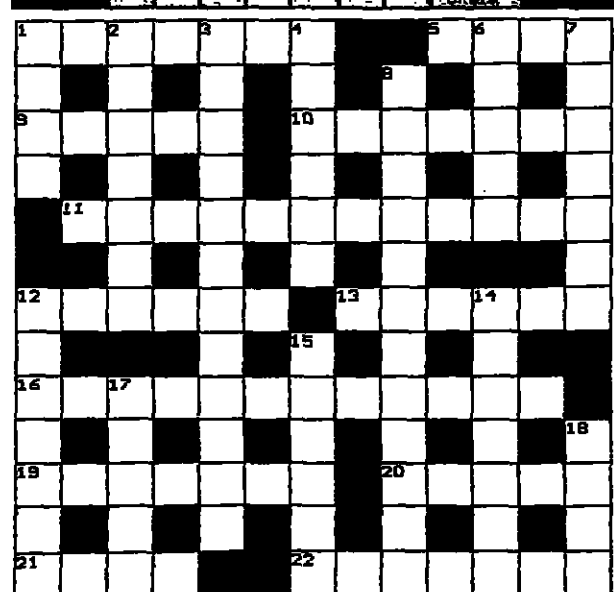
his first cap, especially in such circumstances.

Memories, meanwhile, abound. In May 1952, Italy played England, still having failed to beat them, here for the only time and drew 1-1. Silvio Piola, a 1938 World Cup winner and a centre forward who punched a goal that stood against England in Milan in 1939, was kicked at the end of the game by Jack Froggatt, the England centre half, who said afterwards he had had enough of being elbowed. An anticlimatic end, at 39, to Piola's international career.

Later, again in Florence, reminded him of that punched goal. "It was a beautiful header," he laughed, and then punching over his shoulder, said, "No, not I went like this."

The departure of Graeme Souness from the manager's job at Torino was confirmed yesterday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1219

ACROSS

- 1 Balcony wall (7)
- 5 Hit wildly; work hard (4)
- 9 Lowest point (5)
- 10 Miserable (7)
- 11 Be short of money (4,3,5)
- 12 OT book; decides (6)
- 13 Church caretaker (6)
- 16 Muscle strengthening (4-8)
- 19 Swiss canton, lake, alfalfa (7)
- 20 Guide; filer (5)
- 21 Husband of countess (4)
- 22 Its child full of grace (7)

DOWN

- 1 A pool (4)
- 2 Auburn person (7)
- 3 Two rails for gymnast (8,4)
- 4 That hurt! (6)
- 6 Flower; Pooter's son (5)
- 7 Monster, takes Alice to Mock Turtle (7)
- 8 Lamb/potato dish (9,3)
- 12 Celebration, anniversary (7)
- 14 Confused, twisted together (7)
- 15 Quiet (Night, carol) (6)
- 17 Furnishing, colour etc scheme (5)
- 18 Detain; remain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1218

ACROSS: 1 Wrap 3 Sporting 5 Rick 9 Passport 11 Obsequious 14 Slogan 15 Effete 17 Figurehead 20 Examined 21 Palm 22 Dirty bag 23 Tern
DOWN: 1 Warhorse 2 Ancestor 4 Placid 5 Reshuffled 6 Iron 7 Gate 10 Equanimity 12 Beverage 13 Herdsman 16 Eureka 18 Feud 19 Want

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Elevation of Elkington rankles with Mickelson

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

PHIL MICKELSON, the United States Ryder Cup player who is competing in his third consecutive event in Europe, arrived at Wentworth for the Toyota World Match Play Championship this week expecting to be the second seed in this 12-man event. He was wrong. When the draw for the event, which starts tomorrow, was announced, Mickelson found that he was seeded fifth.

Mickelson had no dispute with Ernie Els being named the top seed — Els has won this event for the past three years. Indeed, he has not yet lost a match. Mickelson was not concerned that Colin Montgomerie should be the No 3 seed nor Nick Price the No 4 seed. Montgomerie and Price are, respectively, No 5 and No 4 in the world rankings. Mickelson was surprised, however, that he, ranked No 10 in the world, was not seeded above Steve Elkington, ranked No 13. Elkington, who won the Players' Championship in March earlier this year, is seeded No 2 at Wentworth.

Mickelson thought that the seedings were done on the basis of the world rankings, as he was led to believe had happened last year. On that basis he assumed that, like the other seeds, he would not be playing until the second round on Friday and had intended to go sightseeing in London yesterday. But when he discovered that Elkington was seeded No 2 and he was No 5,

FIRST ROUND

Seeded players first (seedings in brackets)
0845 and 1300: J Parnawick (Swi, 8)
V1 Wootton (GB, 11)
0900 and 1315: P Mickelson (US, 5)
V F Nobilo (NZ)
Winner to play N Price (Zim, 4)
0915 and 1330: B Penson (US, 8)
V D Clarke (GB)
Winner to play C Montgomerie (GB, 3)
0930 and 1345: V Singh (Fg, 7)
V T Watanabe (Japan)
Winner to play S Elkington (Eng, 2)

it meant that he was playing tomorrow and he had to forgo his trip to London in order to get 36 holes practice. Perhaps it has something to do with the fact that Elkington is a client of the International Management Group (IMG), the tournament's organisers, while Mickelson is not. "I am not surprised they would try and get one of their clients a



Mickelson: unhappy with his tournament seeding

Snooker turns to Archer

BY PHIL YATES

LORD ARCHER of Weston-super-Mare is to be named as president of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) at a press conference at the House of Commons tomorrow afternoon. Before that gathering, an extraordinary general meeting of the game's governing body is expected to ratify an amendment to the WPBSA constitution that will allow its president to be appointed by the board of directors instead of being elected by members.

Despite continuing to boast extremely healthy television audiences — ten million viewers were attracted for the concluding session of the Benson and Hedges Masters final in February, when Steve Davis defeated Ronnie O'Sullivan — sponsorship has become a growing concern. The Grand Prix is one of a number of unsponsored tournaments this season and those influential within the game believe that having a high-profile political figure in their corner will help, either directly or indirectly, to strengthen its commercial position.

Lord Archer, a former chairman of the Conservative Party, will fill the position vacated in the early 1990s by Ray Reddon, six times the world professional snooker champion between 1969 and 1978. It has not been filled until now and this is the first time that the WPBSA has broken with tradition and decided to offer the post to someone outside snooker.

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'The doctors have told me I'm going to die'

PAGE 18

BEST FOR BOOKS

Claire Bloom on Joan Sutherland
PLUS Hardy Amies on peacock males
PAGES 38, 39

ME AND MY OPERATION

Dr Stuttaford reports from his hospital bed

PAGE 19

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Executives 100K

32 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS

Hague aides deny EMU policy shift

Rank and file vent wrath on Tory MPs

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Tory rank and file rose in revolt yesterday as they vented their fury on sleaze and disloyalty in the parliamentary party, demanded a bigger say in leadership elections and called for more powers to throw out errant MPs.

The anger of Tory workers at the way years of splits and scandals had contributed to the worst defeat in Conservative history exploded at the Blackpool conference in a highly charged three-hour debate on the party's future.

The contempt of the grassroots for the antics of rebellious Tory MPs boiled over when Sir Archibald Hamilton, chairman of the 1922 Committee, was jeered as he said that MPs must keep the main say in electing party leaders.

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, in contrast, was cheered when he called for members to have a 50 per cent say in the leadership election, far more than the hierarchy intends. Catching the mood, he told trouble-makers that if they could not stop quarrelling, they should 'shove off and join another party'.

There was unity behind the demand for reform, but dissatisfaction that the plans put forward this week did not yet go far enough.

But even as activists unleashed attack after attack on MPs for the way they had mistreated his predecessor, William Hague was facing new claims of confusion after apparently softening the Conservatives' policy on the European single currency.

Shadow Cabinet opposition appeared to have forced a shift from the firm line that he took during the leadership election when he said that he would rule out the single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament, effectively for ten years.

When an attempt was made last week to turn that into shadow cabinet policy, some shadow ministers objected that it would be too rigid a line to take in the fast-changing circumstances surrounding EMU. Under an emergency formula agreed to maintain



'There are signs of unity emerging - we all agree we fancy Eylon'

unity this week, all shadow cabinet members yesterday were ruling out single currency membership 'for the foreseeable future'. As pro-European ministers claimed privately that the policy had been softened in a compromise designed to keep the party together, Eurosceptic ministers insisted that the 'foreseeable future' still meant ten years.

Although the wording appears to represent a shift, Mr Hague's aides denied that it did, adding that his own opposition to membership within ten years remained. They said that as the policy would go to party members for a vote, Mr Hague could not prejudge their decision by excluding EMU membership in the next Parliament.

The only certainty was that the policy was again in a muddle and will be reconsidered when the conference ends. The divisions continued on the conference fringe last night, with Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, saying that there was no point in having a Conservative Party if it did not fight against the single currency. But Sir Leon Brittan, the European Commissioner, said that to condemn EMU before it had started would be to 'ensnare the Conservative Party in a trap of political irrelevance'.

Back in the conference hall,

Lord Parkinson, the party chairman, brought the party reform debate, which a times seemed to be a display of ritual blood-letting, to an end with a pledge that the party grassroots would get 'real power'.

He admitted that the party had seemed out of touch and to have lost its direction and unity of purpose. He said that that must not be allowed to happen again and, by changing the party's structure and organisation, Conservatives would win again. He said: 'It is going to be your party - not Smith Square's poodle, not the preserve of the National Union, not the parliamentary party's plaything.'

The new single Conservative Party will belong to its members - all its members. We will all have a say. We will all have a part to play.

Party leaders were hoping that the debate would prove a catharsis and that, with the recriminations over, the party could move on to the future. But they were taken aback by the emotion shown. Marjorie Simpson, from Stockton South, was typical. She attacked MPs who, she said, had 'colluded with the enemy', adding: 'They were selfish, cowardly people who delivered this nation into the hands of Mr Blair.'

Jonathan Marland, from Salisbury, said that a once great party had become 'decadent with sleaze', had feuded openly with itself and turned viciously on its leaders. MPs had lost the respect of the electorate with their 'self-centred arrogance'.

Sir James Coughman, who lost his Gillingham seat on May 1, drew applause when he told the conference: 'If only some of my erstwhile colleagues, when confronted by their behaviour, had thought more about the party and less about themselves.'

Matthew Parris, page 2

Conference, pages 8 and 9

William Rees-Mogg and Magnus Linklater, page 20

Leading Article and Letters, page 21



Jane Noble speaking last night. She said her husband, a casualty doctor, was depressed

Wife pleads for missing doctor to return home

By Paul Wilkinson

THE wife of an 'overstressed' senior hospital registrar last night made an impassioned appeal for him to return home after his empty car was found beside the sea.

Matthew Choyce, 34, was last seen in the early hours of Tuesday by his wife, Jane Noble, who is also a doctor, at their Newcastle upon Tyne home. She said he was depressed and stressed at his job in the casualty department at Sunderland Royal Hospital.

At a press conference last night Dr Noble, 30, said: 'Matthew, I want you to know I love you very much. Me, your family and friends are really worried about you. Whatever problems you are thinking about, we will sort



Choyce disappeared early on Tuesday

them out together... Please get in touch. Please just come back to us.'

Her husband's car was found at midday on Tuesday at Tynemouth, in North

Tyneside, outside the Park Hotel, overlooking the North Sea. A search of the surrounding area found nothing. Yesterday a police helicopter was called in. Dr Noble said: 'I woke at about 4am on Tuesday and went to get a drink of water and Matthew was in bed. By 7am he had gone. He took the car but he has no money or clothes other than what I think he was wearing when he left.'

The couple, both Oxford graduates, married two years ago. Dr Noble is a researcher at the University of Newcastle working one day a week at the city's Freeman Hospital. They moved to the North East from Essex in 1992. Dr Choyce, who only started in Sunderland last month, had been depressed for three weeks.

World changes too fast for us older ones says the Queen

By Christopher Thomas in Islamabad and Alan Hamilton

THE QUEEN let slip a rare intimation of mortality yesterday when she confessed that the world was changing too fast for people of her age to keep up.

Addressing the Pakistani Senate and National Assembly in Islamabad on her state visit to mark half a century of independence on the Indian sub-continent the Queen, 71 last April, was referring to the need for a younger generation to take up the cause of Anglo-Pakistani relations.

Her remark was an unusual personal reflection on the fact that she came to the throne in 1952, and is now the fifth-longest serving English monarch since the Norman Conquest.

The Queen, who celebrates her fiftieth wedding anniversary next month, told her audience: 'I sometimes sense the world is changing almost too fast for its inhabitants, at least for us older ones. It is the younger generation who must lead the way in fostering our friendship.'

In case anyone thought that she was hinting at her retirement at the end of five particularly difficult years for the monarchy, the Queen made it clear that her references were to young people in general, and not to her own troubled family. Her theme was cultural ties between Britain and Pakistan, and the growth of a distinctive new identity, the British Muslim.

The Queen said that British and Pakistani cultures complemented each other 'in ways that might surprise us. A distinctive new identity, that of British Muslim, has emerged; I find that healthy and welcome'. Those ties would have to be continued by younger

people. The Queen said: 'People like the youngsters from Bradford, for whom being British and Pakistani is a way of life; like your outstanding cricketers playing for both English counties and the Pakistani national team; like our young parliamentarians, learning from each other; like our young soldiers, sharing UN duties in war-torn areas around the world.'

The Queen also urged Pakistan and India to 'renew efforts to end historic disagreements', amounting to a direct appeal to find a solution to the 50-year-old dispute over Kashmir. She was answered hours afterwards by young Pakistanis chanting 'we want Kashmir' and banners proclaiming 'Kashmir bleeds'.

The third day of her state visit with the Duke of Edinburgh finally took the couple away from the sombre atmosphere of the nation's small capital city to neighbouring Rawalpindi to meet the Pakistani and South African cricket teams, who are playing a five-day Test match. Before she arrived, hundreds of spectators chanted slogans demanding freedom for Indian Kashmir.

The Queen met the players on the pitch, to roars of approval from thousands of people in the stands, while demonstrators gathered outside with anti-Indian banners. The Queen's comments on Kashmir came as Indian officials reacted angrily to a reported statement by Derek Fatchett, a Foreign Office minister, that he backed a referendum to determine the future of Kashmir. India has consistently rejected the idea.

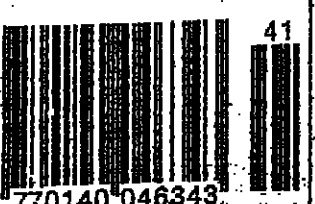
Cricket report, page 46

Vichy trial

Maurice Papon, the retired civil servant on trial for deporting hundreds of Jews to Nazi death camps, confronted his accusers across a French courtroom yesterday...Page 13

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Cheap, fast mains Internet

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

CONSUMERS have been promised an Internet revolution providing faster and cheaper access to the World Wide Web under ordinary domestic electricity lines.

Two companies, Northern Telecom and Norweb Communications, said they had found the 'holy grail' of telecommunications - the ability to send vast amounts of data along power lines without its being distorted by interference. In future, every home in the country could be connected to the Internet in this way, providing increasing competition for telephone companies, especially BT.

Nortel, a Canadian telecommunications equipment manufacturer, has developed the

technology at its main European research laboratories at Harlow, Essex, in co-operation with Norweb Communications, part of United Utilities, which operates electricity, gas and telecommunications businesses in Britain.

Norweb intends to offer a commercial trial to 2,000 homes in the North West next Spring. The system will then spread outwards from there. Yesterday that their service could offer an Internet connection 20 to 30 times faster than commonly available through today's telephone modems and that the cost would be lower by up to 50 per cent.

Peter Dudley, a vice president of Nortel, said users

would be able to remain permanently online, paying a flat monthly charge with their electricity bills. Ian Vance, Nortel's chief scientist, said: 'It can do everything the Internet can do without any of the constraints of speed.'

The system works by using either fibre-optic or radio links to transmit data from the Internet to local electricity substations. The low-voltage part of the electricity network then becomes a local area network. A small box is installed next to the electricity meter in the home to send and receive data. The box itself is connected by ordinary cable to PCs, which will need to be fitted with a special card and software costing less than £200.

Privacy laws, page 7

Chief Justice urges debate on cannabis

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE most senior judge in England and Wales yesterday backed calls for a public debate on the legalisation of soft drugs such as cannabis.

Just days after Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, ruled out moves to legalise cannabis, the Lord Chief Justice said the issue merited consideration. Lord Bingham of Cornhill made clear that he was not expressing a personal view on decriminalisation of soft drugs. But he said: 'It is a subject that deserves, in my judgment, detached, objective, independent consideration.'

He also welcomed the recent decision by the independent

Police Foundation to have an inquiry into the law on the misuse of drugs.

Last night a spokesman for the Home Office reiterated Mr Straw's comments that decriminalising cannabis would only encourage its use. The spokesman added, however, that the Government was happy to debate the issue.

But the comments were welcomed by Bill Saulsbury, secretary of the Police Foundation and Paul Cavadin, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Privacy laws, page 7

Italians turn evil eye on England soccer thugs

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN police raised the alarm over football violence yesterday, four days ahead of England's World Cup qualifying match in Rome. Newspapers also accused of mobilising 'its most terrifying weapon: the football hooligan'.

The police union said it was concerned by reports of an invasion of thugs who had evaded measures to

keep them away, and called on the authorities to 'change the rules so that our police can use rubber bullets, as happens in France and the United States'. It said the police 'need rubber bullets to deter those who are going to the stadium looking for a fight rather than to watch the match peacefully'.

'This is not only the match of the year, it is the match of the next four years', said *Il Messaggero* in a front page editorial. 'For the loser, it will be

football suicide. The English know it, the Italians know it, and they are both trying to improve their chances by fair means or foul, whatever the cost.'

The paper said the English were sending 'their most feared representatives - their hooligans'. All the Italians could do in reply was 'to invoke superstitious curses' - a reference to the corna, or 'devil's horns', a gesture made by holding up the little finger and forefinger and

holding the middle fingers down. Cesare Maldini, Italy's manager, made the sign this week when asked what he would do if Italy lost. 'The English will have a good laugh at our expense over that,' *Il Messaggero* said. 'They send thugs, and we fall back on warding off the evil eye.'

As the England team arrived in Rome last night, the Italian Council of Football Leagues met police to discuss preventing violence.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

A speech by Michael Howard is like this, but scarier. I sampled the Shadow Foreign Secretary yesterday morning and the Ghost Train in the afternoon. Nothing the Ghost Train could contrive brought quite the same tingling up the back of the neck. The Ghost Train cost £160; the speech

The Shadow Foreign Secretary praised Mrs Thatcher and her successors for the "gueriden inheritance": they had left "a gueriden legacy". Now Robin Cook pranced around "the wuerld" as though he had created it. How

leased. The result is rather like those computer-personalised mailshots: "Have you ever wondered, Mr Parris, how much money double glazing could have saved you and Mrs Parris this year?" Howard's pre-released text

Only once did Mr Howard depart substantially from his text. At the end of his speech he was (as media-speak jargon now has it) "expected to say" that Tony Blair has made three promises — and to list

from the platform party, and degree of consternation (Amy-Louise Barnes might have put it — and how right she would have been!) on a sides.

Tory conference, pages 8,

In-flight violence

A woman has been jailed for two years for kicking a policeman in the groin after a fracas on a transatlantic flight. The judge, at Isleworth Crown Court, told Carmel Beer, 50, of Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Somerset, that she had acted like the worst football hooligan.

BY STEWART TENDLER AND FRANCIS GIBB

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will publicly raise the possibility today of ending the jury system for some fraud cases when she makes a wide-ranging speech to police fraud investigators. Assuring her audience that the "Government mean business on financial crime", she will outline proposals being prepared by

She will say that proposals now being discussed include greater sharing of financial information among investigators both in Britain and

the early 1980s. Police and prosecutors argue that juries can no longer cope with sophisticated cases which may take months or years to complete.



Nick Nuttall on a breakthrough in police work with DNA

The breakthrough, made by a team at Leeds University and the Forensic Science Service in Birmingham, means for the first time that the tiniest sample left at the scene of a crime may be sufficient to

It can also tell the sex of the person from a single cell.

with funding from the Medical Research Council, is reported in *Nature*. Currently, millions of cells are needed in a sample to do a DNA profiling or fingerprinting test. The Leeds and

tests. It means that the technique so far works, to British court standards, in 64 per cent of tests.

Recently an Australian team reported that they could get DNA profiles from pens

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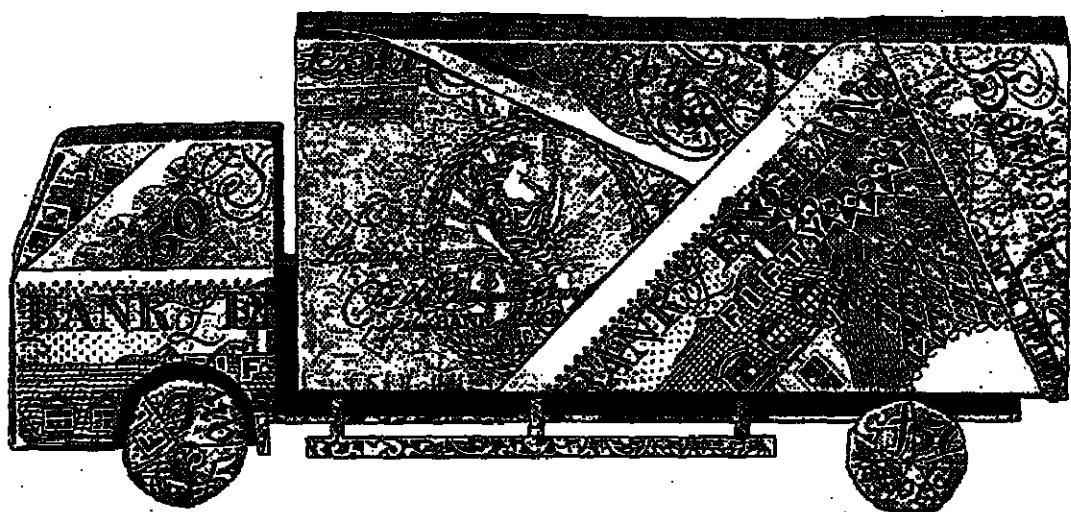
BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

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A common view of business finance.



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Can-Do Girls owe it all to daddy

Teenagers believe they are better than the next man

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GIRLS with a positive attitude owe their self-confidence to their fathers, research from Oxford University disclosed yesterday.

Fathers who listen to their daughters and allow them to be themselves, rather than constantly criticise and correct, lie behind an explosion of "girl power", researchers said.

A new generation of "Can-Do Girls", whose strength of character came from strong relationships with their parents, was identified by the research. One teenage girl in five believes the world is at her feet and that she will compete with men on equal terms for top jobs.

However, one in 12 girls was identified as a "Low Can-Do Girl", starved of family support, who thinks that life is unfair to women and does not expect to succeed.

Adrienne Katz, author of *The Can-Do Girls* report published yesterday, said: "It seems that, for a lot of girls, their father plays a huge role in their self-esteem. Fathers represent the outside world and, maybe because the girls will have to compete with men, if he values their opinions, girls seem to take extra strength from that. Girls want their father's approval quite badly."

Girls' outlook was also affected by the behaviour of their fathers at home. While nine out of ten Can-Do Girls agreed "things are fairer for women nowadays", fewer than one in six Low Can-Do Girls agreed.

Mrs Katz said: "The father needs to do more than say, 'I am here for you.' He needs to exemplify a way of treating women. If the mother is badly treated by the father, a girl appears to lose confidence in herself and her future."

The researchers questioned 3,000 young women aged 13 to 19 and identified 638 as super-confident Can-Do girls. They were the ones who agreed

strongly with four questions or statements: do you feel happy and confident, there are exciting opportunities for me, I get on with my work at school, and do you always set yourself high standards?

More than 2,000 of the girls fell into the middle category but were still "jolly confident". Mrs Katz said. She added: "Most young women in the UK feel confident and happy much of the time."

Family relationships were shown to be the most significant factor behind a girl's self-confidence, with no significant influence registered by other indicators such as poverty, area of the country or social class.

However, 50 per cent of the Can-Do girls admitted to worrying about being fat, although this compared with 67 per cent of girls overall and about 70 per cent of Low Can-Do girls.

Mrs Katz added: "Girls believe the future is theirs. An extraordinary web of youth culture and a dub of 'girlhood' — girl power, to coin a current phrase — is inspiring and empowering young women as never before. They believe that they are as good as or better than the next man. Gone is the concept of competition with men, or whingeing about unfairness. Girls can do — and are doing — in ever-increasing numbers."

Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop, which sponsored the research, said: "No one has ever said growing up is easy, but this research tells us something new. It introduces us to the Can-Do girls, young women who are willing — and able — to take life by the horns and live it to the full."

Publication of the report coincided with the launch of a "self-esteem activity pack" which has been put together by The Body Shop and the Guide Association to help girls to build up their self-confidence.



Cara Barry, Polly Spencer, Laura Jones and Amy Barry: "The Spice Girls just wear as little clothing as possible and say that's powerful"

Power, not pop, is the spice of life

Family and friends are better role models for young than chart-topping wannabes, writes David Charter

GIRL POWER pre-dates the Spice Girls. The new generation of ambitious, super-confident young women identified yesterday were researched before the girl band entered the nation's consciousness with their ebullient catchphrase.

In fact, teenage girls who took part in the research were scathing in their criticism of the Spice Girls for claiming to represent their generation. The Can-Do Girls' most important role models were their mothers and their friends.

"The Spice Girls are not about Girl Power. How many men in suits own them?" asked Polly Spencer, 17, a

student at Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School in Barnet, North London. "I don't look up to pop stars or celebrities. I admire people who change something or who make something of themselves. My friends are my biggest role models because they are the people who respect me and let me be an individual."

Cara Barry, 14, also from Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School, who also took part in the research project and identified herself as a Can-Do Girl, added: "I don't like the

Spice Girls because they pretend to be something they are not. They say they are the leaders of Girl Power but they don't represent us. They just wear as little clothing as possible and say that's powerful. They don't seem to care about women's rights. My mum and my sister are my role models."

The girls agreed that their own route to girl power would be through higher education. For them, the future holds the challenge of succeeding without men writing

the script. "I don't think the sexes are completely equal yet and I don't see why men should be the dominant sex and women should be left behind," Cara said. "I want to have a career and I don't want to have children until I am in my thirties. There is so much I want to do without having to feel I have got another person to put before myself." Polly added: "I really want to go to art college. I don't want to rely on someone else."

Adrienne Katz, the re-

searcher, said her findings proved that the Spice Girls were a symptom of Girl Power, not the cause. "We carried out our survey in September last year just before the emergence of the Spice Girls," she said. "We did not intend to study particularly confident girls, but we could not ignore the confident optimism that seemed to be leaping off the page."

Laura Jones, 14, who also took part in the research, said: "I think the Spice Girls are using the idea of 'girl power' just to make money. I admire women MPs such as Mo Mowlam, because before it was a man in Northern Ireland."

Parents lose court plea over negligence hearing

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DISCIPLINARY hearing into accusations against three doctors will start on Monday after the High Court ruled that the parents of four brain-damaged children had no right to be represented there.

The case, to be heard by the General Medical Council's disciplinary committee, is expected to last well into the new year. Mr Justice Lightman, dismissing the parents' request to be represented at it, said the proceedings would be "immense, important and lengthy".

The three doctors are accused of professional misconduct in the way open-heart surgery was carried out at Bristol Royal Infirmary on the children, aged between three and nine, who were left severely brain damaged.

The parents, who say their children were the subject of "negligent treatment" demanded the right to legal representation at the GMC hearing. They wanted an order requiring the Council to provide particulars of the allegations of serious misconduct made against the doctors and an injunction to prevent the inquiry proceeding before the documentation they required had been provided.

The families were concerned that the charges and evidence might be too narrowly circumscribed by the GMC and the conduct of the inquiry might unduly limit the issues to be investigated.

Mr Justice Lightman said it was in the public interest the case went ahead as soon as possible and the parents had no right to representation.

The problems of finding a new date suitable for all involved would be mammoth and cause considerable wasted costs, he said, as well as prolonging the ordeal of the doctors involved.

The parents, who are launching parallel claims for compensation against the hospital managers, the United Bristol NHS Healthcare Trust, will be able to attend the hearing as members of the public. One of them is to be called to give evidence.

Injuries not accidental doctor tells nanny trial

FROM PETER BEAL IN BOSTON

INJURIES suffered by a nine-month-old boy whose nanny Louise Woodward is accused of murdering could not have been caused accidentally, a neurosurgeon told an American court yesterday.

Joseph Medson said a gentle shaking or a fall on to towels on a bathroom floor, as Miss Woodward is alleged to have told police happened, could not have caused the irreversible brain damage from which Matthew Eappen died five days later.

Gerry Leone, the prosecutor, asked Dr Medson on the second day of Miss Woodward's trial at the Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Massachusetts: "In your opinion, was the cause of these injuries accidental or non-accidental?"

Dr Medson replied: "I think they were non-accidental. To explain the injuries it would have required a forcible hitting of the head against some blunt surface. To explain the haemorrhaging there would have to be an additional shaking or swinging of the head in some fashion."

Miss Woodward, 19, of Elton, near Chester, denies murdering the baby in what the prosecution allege was a "frustrated, unhappy and resentful" rage because he would not stop crying and because she was unhappy with her job with Matthew's doctor parents. She faces a life

sentence without parole if convicted.

Dr Medson said he also ruled out the brain damage being caused by a developing, existing condition. He estimated the injuries had been caused between one to three hours before his admission to hospital.

He said after suffering such injuries Matthew would have appeared lethargic, sleepy, would have probably been vomiting, have lost his appetite and appeared generally abnormal. The defence claims that the baby was showing these signs during the whole day and had appeared not his normal self the previous day. Barry Scheck, for the defence, asked Dr Medson if he was



Louise Woodward sits in the court yesterday

aware of notes made by Matthew's mother Dr Deborah Eappen that day from what Miss Woodward had told her about Matthew's behaviour first thing in the morning. Dr Medson said: "I am not aware of any notes written by Dr Eappen."

Mr Scheck told the court: "I have copies of those notes." Dr Medson said it was procedure at the hospital for doctors to contact police over injuries suggesting possible child abuse. He admitted it had been an "awkward and very difficult" situation because he knew at the time of the baby's admission that his parents were both doctors in Boston hospitals.

Mr Scheck asked: "Would you agree that in this kind of situation there is a danger of losing objectivity?"

Dr Medson replied: "There may be in some cases. We try to exercise the best possible clinical judgments we can."

Mr Scheck asked if there had been a danger of making a "snap judgment" about the cause of Matthew's injuries. The doctor replied: "I support those judgments to this day."

Dr Medson said he had told police the day after Matthew was admitted his injuries were consistent with shaken infant syndrome. He did not recall saying the impact had been equivalent to a fall from a second or third floor balcony. The case continues.

Nun, 79, in hospital after she is mugged

AN ELDERLY nun is in hospital after she was thrown to the ground by a mugger while visiting sick parishioners. Sister Marie Leary, 79, suffered a broken hip and had to undergo surgery.

She was attacked as she got out of her car and was left lying in pain on the ground by a white youth who snatched her bag and escaped in a stolen car later found abandoned. Sister Marie, a member of the Sisters of Charity of St Paul, is recovering after an operation to put a pin in her fractured hip. Her condition was described yesterday as comfortable.

She works in the Roman Catholic parish of Our Lady and All Saints at Stourbridge, West Midlands and is based at St Joseph's Convent in the town. The Rev David McGough, the parish priest, said: "She is well-known locally, having worked tirelessly for the sick and elderly in the area for 15 years."

"It is awful that she has been subjected to this assault. A few years ago, it would have been unthinkable for anyone to mug a nun. But unfortunately, that is no longer the case."

Father McGough said that Sister Marie was a sister-teacher for 45 years, ending her career as head teacher of St Peter's Roman Catholic School at Leamington, Warwickshire.

Almighty row as God tries to park

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ACTOR who plays God arrived late to prepare for Creation, after running into the more almighty power of a car-park attendant.

But there was some disagreement yesterday over who was moving in the most mysterious way in the hours before a Royal Shakespeare Company production of *The Creation* at Newcastle upon Tyne University. David Ryall, who portrays the Almighty in the medieval mystery play, had been so angered by problems trying to find a place to park that he wrote to the city's local paper, complaining "I have found it very difficult to give the performances that the

city deserves due to the abuse and humiliation received at the hands of car-parking officials."

The problem began when Mr Ryall, 61, was allowed through a barrier to find a space to park when he went to the theatre early to do his warm-up exercises. He left his car with the engine running to see if anyone would make room.

He said: "I was suddenly confronted by a concrete giant of a parking attendant. He was shouting 'Get out, get out'. I went to pieces. One just doesn't expect that sort of thing."

"I got back in my car and started looking for a space but he insisted that I leave the area completely. I just did as I was told. In the end I was sitting at a

parking meter some way from the theatre. I was actually shaking. I had to walk to my room at the theatre and sit down for a while. I was very rattled. I had to carry a large part of the play feeling absolutely awful."

"Playing God hasn't given me any grandiose notions. I don't expect red-carpet treatment but surely some arrangement could be made to enable visiting actors to arrive at their place of work in a state of mind conducive to giving a performance."

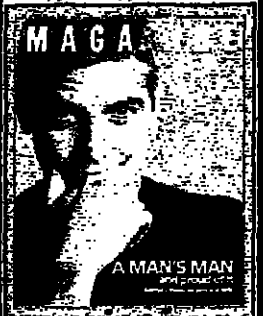
However, a spokesman for the university, which owns the car park, dismissed the complaint about the staff. He said: "They are just a couple of little chaps sitting in a cabin."

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Andie MacDowell

Saturday in
THE TIMES

Why
George Clooney
says
he'll never
marry



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Accomplices to Lawrence killing offered immunity

ACCOMPICES to the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence have been offered limited immunity, so that evidence they give before a public inquiry will not be used in any future criminal prosecutions against them.

Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, head of the judicial inquiry, said that both he and the public believed there were witnesses who had not yet come forward and he appealed for them to do so. An advertising campaign will be launched in the area around Eltham, southeast London, where the killing took place, to urge those people to tell their story to the inquiry.

Lawyers acting for the Lawrences suspect that the murderers may have been assisted in their escape, or in concealing the crime, by people who have not yet been traced.

Neville Lawrence, Stephen's father, said: "I am pleased to see that they have granted

**Lin Jenkins on
the opening of a
judicial inquiry
into the murder
of black teenager
at bus stop**

immunity to anybody would want to come forward and give evidence. Perhaps now we might get to the bottom of what happened."

Imran Khan, the family solicitor, added: "There has been a wall of silence around these particular matters, or that is what is claimed, and I hope that immunity offered by this inquiry will change that."

Police who conducted the investigation into the killing of the 18-year-old A-level student

at a bus stop in April 1993 complained that they received little co-operation.

Five white youths cleared of the murder declined to answer questions at an inquest into the death. The jury found that Stephen had been killed by a group of five white youths in an "unprovoked racist attack".

Sir William has the power to summons witnesses and is likely to call the youths. At a preliminary hearing yesterday, where interested parties made requests to be formally represented, there was no application on behalf of the five.

Sir William called for witnesses who had not yet been heard to come forward so he could consider all material for what he promised to be a "fair and full and fearless report".

He said that no evidence provided by any person to the inquiry, whether written or oral, or documents produced by that person, "will be used in evidence against him or her in



Sir William Macpherson of Cluny with one of his advisers, the Right Rev John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney

any criminal proceedings, except in proceedings where he or she is charged with having given false evidence in the course of this inquiry, or having conspired with or procured others to do so."

The provision is a standard one under the statutory terms of a public inquiry and is

always outlined at the outset. It has been particularly useful in persuading people to give evidence in inquiries into widespread child abuse, and in the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton riots.

Sir William said: "Both I and the public believe that witnesses may be able to help

who have not so far come forward or been identified."

He will examine the actual killing, and the policing, investigation and legal proceedings that followed it. "I should stress that this inquiry does not involve litigation or claims made between parties. Nor will the inquiry be a trial or re-trial of any person or persons," he added.

He said he would consider applications for people to give evidence without their identity being disclosed. "We will always be prepared to hear any representation as to the need for confidentiality before making any decision to allow publicity. Anonymous information is unlikely to be relied upon."

The inquiry has been delayed until the outcome of a Police Complaints Authority (PCA) inquiry into complaints made by the Lawrence family against the Metropolitan Police.

Roland Phillips, for the authority, said it was anticipated the report would go to the Secretary of State at the end of November. "Very substantial progress has been made in several aspects." Any new lines opened up would be pursued.

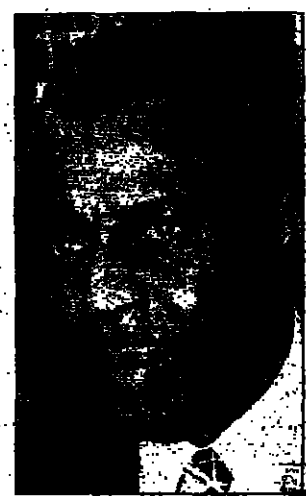
Sir William approved counsel to the inquiry to the Lawrence family, the Metropolitan Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Police Complaints Authority, the Council for Racial Equality, London Borough of Greenwich and Dyane Brookes, the friend of Stephen who was with him at the time of his death.

Jane Deighton, his solicitor, said he needed to be represented since he had direct contact with those investigating the killing. "Many issues have arisen between him and those responsible, many of them hotly disputed. He has suffered severe trauma as a result of witnessing this murder and is himself emotionally vulnerable."

Sir William reserved judgement on whether to have ten



Stephen Lawrence: the murdered student



Neville Lawrence, he was pleased by offer

police officers represented by counsel for the Police Federation and three retired superintendents represented by counsel for the Police Superintendents' Association.

Sir William, a retired High Court judge, is assisted by three advisers. Tom Cook, former Deputy Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, the Right Rev John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney, and Richard Stone, a North London GP and chairman of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality.

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Violent prisoner threatened to kill hostages

A PRISONER named Charles Bronson, who is described as Britain's most disruptive inmate, was jailed for a further seven years yesterday for taking three fellow prisoners hostage.

Bronson — who was known as Michael Gordon Peterson before adopting the name — has spent 21 of the past 25 years in solitary confinement. The shaven-head Bronson, 44, accompanied by five officers in the dock, admitted demanding firearms, ammunition and a helicopter from a prison negotiator, and making three threats to kill. He had barricaded himself and three other prisoners, whom he tied up, in a cell for seven hours during a siege at the top-security Belmarsh prison, south London, in September 1996.

Bronson, 18st, had threatened to kill them unless he was given a helicopter, sub-machineguns, a cheese sandwich, and ice cream. Two of his hostages were Iraqis charged with hijacking an aeroplane while the third was a man now serving 15 years for shooting a police officer.

He demanded that the helicopter fly him to Cuba or Libya, where he would seek political asylum. Bronson

Inmate demanded helicopter, sub-machineguns and a sandwich, reports Paul Whittaker

warned prison officers that if his demands were not met within an hour, "you will have to bring in four bodyguards and four body bags."

"I have a blade and will cut them up. None of us are going to leave, even if it means me getting one in the head."

The Belmarsh prison siege was the latest in a series of hostage sieges and other violent incidents which have marked Bronson's prison career, the court was told.

Bronson, who has been jailed three times for armed robberies, has six convictions for violence against inmates and is serving a 15-year sentence for possession of a firearm with intent and hostage-taking. He was transferred to Belmarsh in 1996, where staff had put a great deal of effort

into his social development. Jeremy Donne, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey. But Bronson "had a clear problem in getting on with other prisoners", he said.

"He is a large, strong man who keeps himself extremely fit and has been known to bend cell doors with his bare hands. Because of his strength and unpredictable behaviour and attitude to other prisoners, he has spent 21 of his last 25 years in segregated units — effectively in solitary confinement," Mr Donne told the court.

"He is considered probably the most disruptive inmate in this country."

Bronson, who holds a world record for press-ups and has won awards for his poetry and artwork, made a personal appeal to Judge Brian Watling. He told the judge that he had changed after being contacted by his son after many years. "My son, who I have not seen since 1975, is back in my life. Since I have had that letter I am on a mission of peace. I was on a mission of madness. All I want to do now is have a pint with my son. He is now 26 — he was three when I last saw him." Bronson plans to marry when his release date is up in 2010.

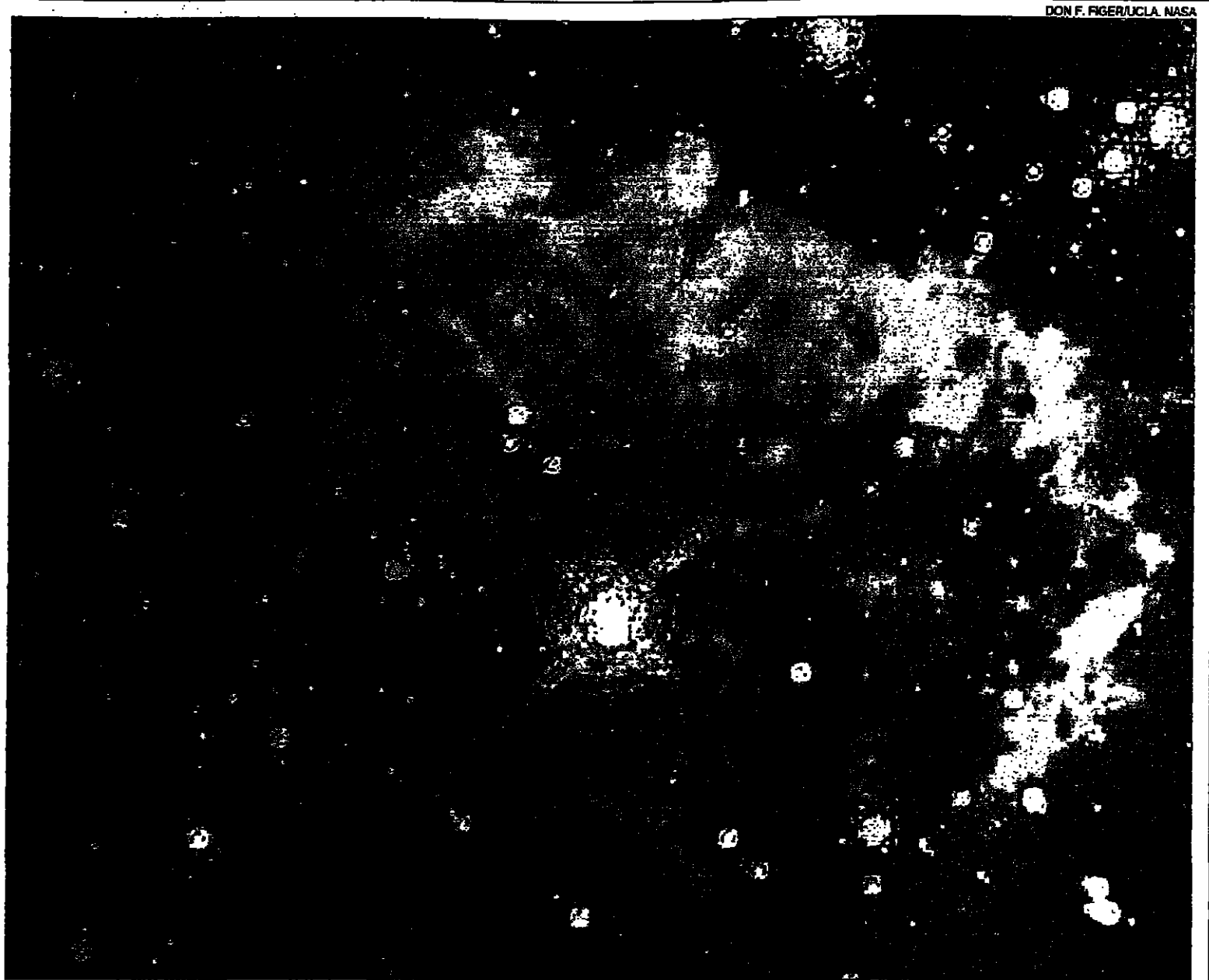
Isabella Forshaw, for the defence, described Bronson as a "warm" man who had written anti-drug pamphlets and raised £900 for a Yorkshire hospice by doing a "phenomenal" number of press-ups.

Judge Watling said that Bronson was "two people" — one who was "pleasant and warm" with a "potential to become good", the other with a "capacity for great violence".

He told Bronson: "You are described as being one of the most violent prisoners in prison history. This was a very serious and very frightening incident. It illustrates the very difficult situation the Prison Service has in containing people like yourself."



Charles Bronson, who adopted the name of the actor, and a self-portrait. He also writes poetry



The Pistol Star captured by the Hubble Space Telescope. A nebula, produced by a violent eruption, appears as a pinkish cloud

Star born to live fast and die young

By ANJANA AHUJA

THE Hubble Space Telescope has revealed possibly the brightest star in the universe. However, the dazzling object is destined to remain hidden from human eyes — its radiant splendour is obscured by interstellar dust.

The star, which is ten million times as luminous as the Sun, was discovered by astronomers at the University of California at Los Angeles in mid-September. It was announced yesterday. It is the most dramatic finding yielded by the Near-Infrared Camera

and Multi-Object Spectrometer that was added to the telescope in February.

The discovery has been named the Pistol Star, after the shape of the gas cloud in which it resides. It lies 25,000 light years from Earth and has a radius of between 93 million and 139 million miles. One light year is about 5,900 billion miles. If placed at the centre of our solar system it would stretch to Mars.

In stellar terms, it is living fast and will die young — the Pistol Star releases as much energy in six seconds as the Sun does in a year, and

is likely to come to a spectacular, explosive end as a supernova within three million years.

Mark Morris, one of the researchers, said: "Massive stars such as the Pistol Star are burning their candles at both ends; they are so luminous that they consume their fuel at an outrageous rate, burning out quickly and often creating dramatic events, such as exploding as supernovas."

The researchers, who were led by Don Figer, also estimate that the star, born between one and three million years ago, may have started life as the largest star ever, with a mass 200

times that of the Sun. For this reason, the discovery is likely to renew debate about how stars form and evolve.

Astronomers believe that stars form within large dust clouds that contract under their own gravity. Portions of the clouds, or nebulae, shrink into hot clumps; eventually the core of the clump begins to burn hydrogen, the signature of star formation. The newly formed star then begins to radiate sufficient energy to counter the inward fall of material, thus limiting its maximum mass. Large stars — those more than 120 solar masses — are exceedingly rare.

The Beauty.

And the Beast.



It's all happening at the London Motor Show, Hall 1.

October 16th will be a great day for true motoring enthusiasts. Chevrolet will unveil two new stars, each unique, and each offering totally new experiences to Sports Car buyers. The UK Premiere of the Corvette and the Camaro. The Beauty is Camaro — sleek, powerful, roomy and infatigable. A true Sports Tourer with all the conveniences of a luxury cruiser. For years, the brand has been one of America's favorite pastimes.

The Beast is Corvette. The new Corvette. Launched in Geneva earlier this year and now offered topless. But with plenty under the hood! Corvette is power in the raw. Fast, furious, magnificent. A Sporting Icon. Carefully monitored production results in limited Corvette availability. Reserve one early. The Beast is for taming. The Beauty is for loving.



CHEVROLET

Man behind Roland Rat takes on the NHS

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE television executive who put Roland Rat on screen has been put in charge of drawing up a charter for the National Health Service.

Greg Dyke, who was chosen for the job by Tony Blair because of his experience as a communicator, has been asked to scrap the Patient's Charter and replace it with one that makes the public understand that it has responsibilities as well as rights.

"When I go to accident and emergency departments I am told that the growth in the number of assaults on nurses and abuse is related to people's crude understanding of what they think their rights are under the Patient's Charter," Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said as he announced the review. "From what doctors and nurses tell us, the Patient's Charter is something that is making their lives not only more difficult, but dangerous as well."

One prototype of the charter the Government wants to

see has been drawn up by the health authority at Bury, Lancashire. It emphasises the need for patients to turn up on time for appointments, and also tells them not to wear dirty boots or park bicycles in surgery waiting rooms.

"Patients' rights will remain, but we want to get into the new charter commitments about the quality of care and not just things about the speed with which patients are seen."

JOBS FOR FRIENDS AND BACKERS

GREG DYKE is the latest in a line of businessmen and creative people who helped to bankroll Tony Blair's office in Opposition or supported Labour's election campaign who have received an honour or a government job since Mr Blair came to power.

Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, named head of the Government's new Better Regulation taskforce, was introduced at the Labour

conference as "our great friend". The film producer Lord Putnam has been appointed to Chris Smith's creative industries team and to David Blunkett's Standards in Schools taskforce.

Peerages were also given to Michael Levy, who helped to organise the "blind trust" which funded Mr Blair's private office, and to the crime writer Ruth Rendell, who has given sums to the party.

Mr Dobson said, "If there is a commitment to see someone within 15 minutes, patients must understand that if somebody is brought in needing immediate treatment to save their life then those who are not such urgent cases will just have to wait."

"People must understand as well that it does harm to other patients and to the health service itself if they fail to turn up for an appointment." He

said that no sanctions were being considered for those who missed appointments, but the aim of the new charter was to raise the public's awareness of the damage done by being inconsiderate. This was where Mr Dyke's expertise would come in.

Mr Dyke, 50, who worked as an executive with TV-am, TVS, London Weekend and GMTV before taking over as chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television two years ago, was a large contributor to Mr Blair's Labour leadership campaign and regularly donates money to the Labour Party. A member of a private health scheme paid by his employer, he said yesterday that he used it only to hire a physiotherapist after playing football.

During the next few months he will be consulting patients' groups and the medical profession to draw up the charter in time for the NHS's 50th anniversary in July.

Letters, page 21



Greg Dyke, left, and Frank Dobson yesterday. Mr Dyke has been chosen for his skill as a communicator

Fighting chance for hospitals facing closure

BY OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOUR community hospitals threatened with closure to save £5 million may yet be saved.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority says that it faces impossibly high costs because of the widely scattered population the hospitals serve. Stan Dennison, the authority's chairman, said that, unlike Scotland and Wales, which had a similar problem, Cornwall did not receive an extra 20 per cent in funding.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said in London that there would have to be three months' consultation about the closures. "It does not necessarily follow that those hospitals will be closed just because it has been proposed," he said. "If the local community health councils object, at the end of that process the decision will then come to me, and I will have to take that decision."

Mr Dobson said that he could make no promises about extra funding for the NHS. But he repeated a promise by the Prime Minister at the weekend to keep a close eye on NHS finances.

The Cornish hospitals targeted for closure are Edward Hain in St Ives, Poltair in

Penzance, St Barnabas in Saltash and Fowey hospital. If the closures go ahead, it will reduce the number of beds from 453 to 324 and cut 300 jobs. In anticipation of the closure, the authority has increased community nursing services so that some patients would not have to travel to hospital. It says that it will continue to press the Government for adequate funding.

Trevor Parsons, of the public service union Unison, said that he wanted an inquiry into the way the authority was managed. The cuts would go "right to the heart of the community", he said. "We intend to go directly to Mr Dobson, and will be launching petitions and demonstrations and doing our best to get these cuts reversed."

The Liberal Democrats, who hold four of Cornwall's five Commons seats, announced a three-month campaign to reverse the proposals. Matthew Taylor, the Truro and St Austell MP, blamed "years of government underfunding. Labour could not wash its hands of the problem by blaming the previous Government. They can take action to put things right."

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Law chief says privacy law will evolve in courts

Human rights convention will allow judges to build up rules based on individual cases, reports Frances Gibb

THE Lord Chief Justice said yesterday that Parliament would not need to introduce a law of privacy as the judges themselves would create one through the courts.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, giving his second press conference since he took up his office last year, said that a privacy law would develop through individual cases before the courts. This would be an "inevitable" consequence of the Government's intention to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

"My current belief is that there will be no need for legislation. The courts have to be seen as an arm of the state for this purpose... there will be a clear duty on the courts to protect privacy and my experience is that, over time, they will develop the law."

But equally, he added, the incorporation of the European convention — a move that he strongly favours — would also increase protection of the right of the press to free speech.

"What is going to have to be confronted is the demarcation boundary between free speech and privacy. I think this is difficult and debatable territory," he said.

The criterion which judges would use would be whether an intrusion was "in the public interest". People guilty of wrongdoing in public office should not escape exposure, but those who suffered intrusions into their private life had a right to redress, he said.

Lord Bingham said it was a strength of the system that the law could be developed according to individual cases, rather than on broad statements of principle.

As to the role of courts in interpreting laws for compliance with the new human

rights legislation, the Lord Chief Justice unequivocally supported, limiting judicial powers. He favoured the more conservative New Zealand model for a human rights Bill, something that the Government is expected to propose in its White Paper later this month. Under this, judges would not have the power to strike down parliamentary statutes — a power Lord Bingham said that he would not want.

"I think it is vastly preferable that judges do not embark on an exercise to disapply Acts of Parliament. It is not part of our constitutional tradition to do so and is bound to give rise to disquiet and unrest in Parliament," Lord Bingham expected that there would be a flood of cases immediately after incorporation, but that this would subside once the law became established.

Lord Bingham also reiterated his opposition to the televising of court cases, saying that

it would "increase enormously" the stress on those involved. "I think the cases which would receive maximum exposure would be full of macabre and often horrific detail."

He welcomed moves by the Government to strengthen the credibility of community sentences as an alternative to prison. He regretted that offenders who were given community service orders were often portrayed as having "got away with it" and suggested they should be renamed "criminal work orders" to reflect the tough nature of the punishment involved.

He repeated his opposition to mandatory life sentences for those convicted for a second time of a serious violent or sexual offence, but said that, as the Government intended to go ahead with this, the judges would have to ensure the measure would "work as well as it can".

Lord Bingham also backed calls for a public debate on the decriminalisation of softer drugs, such as cannabis. He welcomed the decision by the independent Police Foundation to set up an inquiry into the issue.

He emphasised that he was not expressing a view on decriminalisation. "It is a subject that deserves, in my judgment, detached, objective, independent consideration."

"It may very well be that the result of such consideration would be that to tinker with the current prohibition would be madness. But that doesn't seem to me an argument against considering the suggestion."

Last week, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, addressing the Labour Party conference, ruled out any move to decriminalise illegal drugs.



Bingham said there was no need for legislation.



Missing in action: the BBC's ruddy shelducks. After being groomed for fame, they flew away on their test flight behind a camera car

Natural stars duck out of their big TV debut

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE BBC's world-renowned natural history film unit has mislaid four of its star performers. The five-month-old ruddy shelducks had been raised by hand and were being trained to follow a camera car, but they vanished over the horizon on a test flight.

Six of the rare ducks were being groomed to star in an edition of *The Natural World* due to be broadcast next year. They were flying in perfect formation at an RAF base in Somerset when they peeled off and flew away. Despite the plaintive calls of Conrad Maufe, the BBC field assistant who had taken over the role of their natural mother, only two returned next day. The others were last seen heading south.

Mr Maufe, a naturalist,

had spent hundreds of hours rearing the ducklings at a private bird collection near Bristol, hand-feeding them and teaching them to follow him. The plan was to make them fly after him as he called from a car so a camera crew could film them in flight from just feet away. He learned their calls to be able to "speak" to them.

The ruddy shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea* and not to be confused with the smaller ruddy duck, is red-brown with a black beak. It is found wild in Spain, North Africa, Turkey and the Middle East, but numbers are declining. Mr Maufe, who has been searching for his lost family since last Friday, said: "It's possible their migratory instinct has cut in. They might want

to head south, or just want to explore a bit. I think they'll probably be on some pond or stream nearby."

Mark Flowers, assistant producer at the BBC Natural History Unit in Bristol, said: "Conrad was like a parent to those ducks. He even had to put on wellies and lead them into ponds and lakes. It's a time-consuming technique, but amazing footage like this is what we're famous for."

The missing birds have white and red leg-tags. Richard Millington, of the Birdline Information Service, said: "If they stick together we'll hear about them. But I doubt whether a human will ever regain their trust. It's about the time when they would naturally break from their parents and go off on their own."



Abandoned "mother": Maufe rears the ducklings

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Archer heads calls for big say in leadership

By POLLY NEWTON AND JAMES LANDALE

JEFFREY ARCHER led a barrage of calls yesterday from Tory activists for a greater say in the election of the leader. The former deputy chairman of the party was given a standing ovation at the conference after he said that the rank and file should have at least 50 per cent of the votes in a leadership ballot.

"The future of our party, the selection of our leader and discussions on future policy should not be left to a handful of MPs who think they have some superior wisdom we have not been afflicted with," he said. "It was not the party workers who lost us the last election."

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare said that if Tory supporters were expected to go on campaigning and raising money, they should be given some influence over policy and the leadership. Sir Archibald Hamilton, chairman of the 1922 Committee of MPs, accepted that reform would require "compromise on all sides" and said: "We too

accept there is a great need for these reforms."

Sir Archibald acknowledged that the rank and file members should have a say in the leadership contests. But he was boxed when he said that MPs must retain the largest share of any electoral college vote "because any new leader needs to command the support of the majority of the Parliamentary party".

Lord Archer joined several speakers in attacking Conservative MPs for fighting amongst themselves. "Even I underestimated the Parliamentary party's ability to form a circular firing squad," he said. "If we are to be trusted by the British people once again we must stop quarrelling among ourselves and if there are those who cannot stop quarrelling, I say to them, 'Shove off and join another party.'"

Jonathan Marland from Salisbury said: "I witnessed a great party, the party of natural government, fall into a state of disarray. A party that

openly feuded amongst itself. A party that rounded viciously on its leader."

"And in all this, the party has suffered at the hands of a few who have put their own interests before those of the nation and our associations. We know who they are. These rascals must allow us to turf those people out. MPs must understand who they are working for — the electorate, not themselves."

John Strafford, from Westsex Area, accused the 1922 Committee of acting like "the town council in Jurassic Park" and called for ordinary members to have a direct vote in leadership elections. "We want the full monty of democracy," he said.

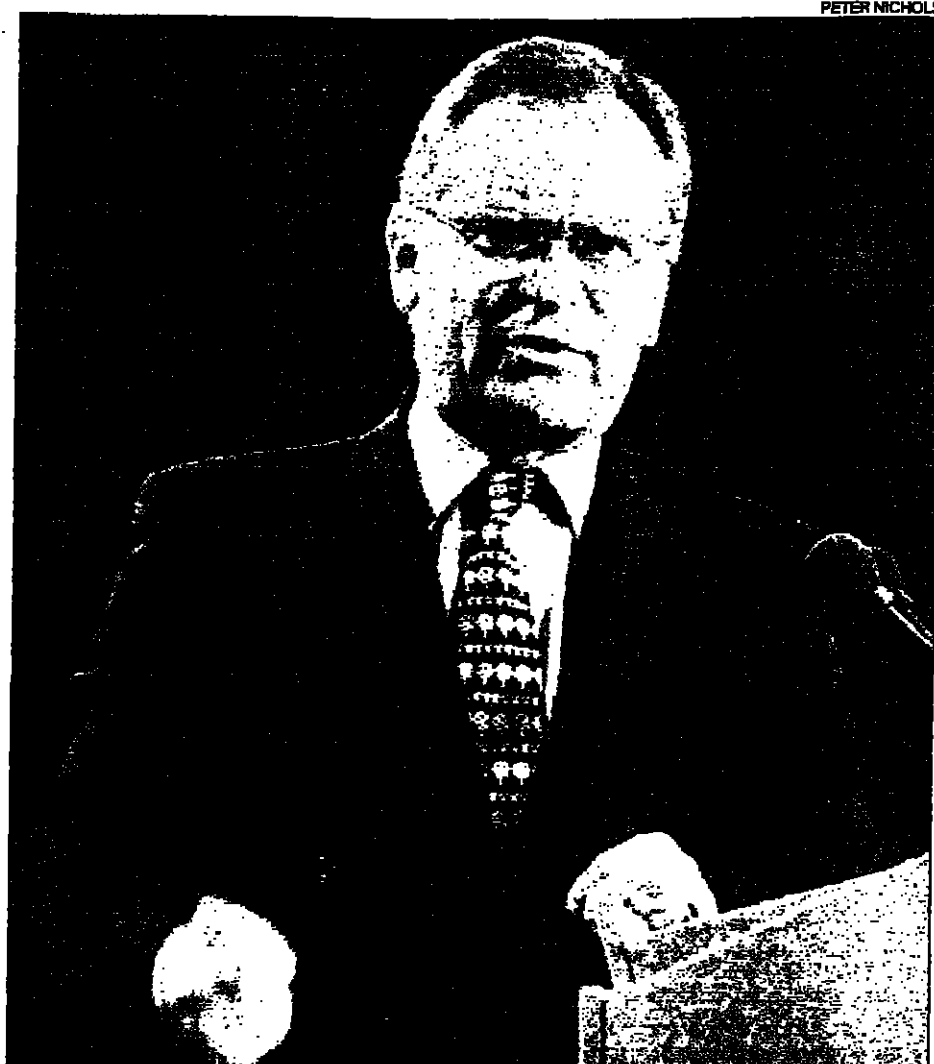
Marjorie Simpson, chairman of Stockton South, blamed MPs for the election defeat. "I understand that even here some leading figures are rattling their sabres and sharpening their knives. The voluntary party is no longer willing to stand by watching while they destroy

our leader and our party. Loyalty should be rewarded, disloyalty should be dealt with severely and permanently."

Eric Chalker, from Greater London Area, said Mr Hague should give activists a greater representation on the new controlling board. Robin Hodgson, chairman of National Union voluntary wing of the party, said the proposed changes provided the basic building blocks for reform but urged activists to speak their minds during the consultation period. "I do not believe the sensible expression of personal views about the future of our party is an issue of loyalty," he said.

"We, the volunteers, must accept the need for change. But so must the Members of Parliament."

Archie Norman, the Tory vice-chairman who drew up the reform "green paper", sought to calm grassroots fears by recognising the "real and genuine" concerns. But he warned that there would be "balances and trade-offs".



Lord Archer: "It was not party workers who lost us the election" he told activists

Clarke has eye on Hague's job

By ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE dismayed the Tory leadership yesterday when he refused to rule out mounting a challenge against William Hague.

The former Chancellor, who was the choice of the party activists to succeed John Major, reaffirmed his burning ambition to become party leader and Prime Minister. Asked whether he would challenge a serving Tory leader, he said: "I have no idea. I have no intention of standing against the present one. At the present time."

In an interview with the *London Evening Standard*, Mr Clarke loyally repeated that the Tories would win the next election with Mr Hague at the helm, but said he had an open mind on his strategy if they lost.

If the Tories won, he said, his chances of leading the party would be "getting thin or thinnish".

Tories have yet to face up to their new status

THE party grassroots angry about their MPs, and demanding a majority say in the election of the leader. Sounds familiar? At the Labour conference in Brighton after it had lost the 1979 election, the surviving MPs and ex-MPs were corralled into a prominent pen where they were denounced as "traitors" by every delegate wanting to win easy applause. It was the first public sign of the Bennite upsurge which convulsed Labour over the following two years, and ended the MPs' monopoly in the election of the leader.

Tory manners are more restrained, and no fingers were waved accusingly yesterday in the party reform debate, though it came very near. And, unlike Labour in 1979, the Tory grassroots are not blaming the last Government. However, speaker after speaker was loudly cheered whenever they criticised the parliamentary party, and its divisions. Jeffrey Archer took on the tub-thumping mantle of

the attempt to double membership.

But just as in Labour's upheavals after 1979, there is a danger of the MPs becoming easy scapegoats as the much wider malaise is ignored. The minority of familiar troublemakers often made John Major's premiership hell and they helped to turn the Tory defeat into a rout. But the fractiousness of a couple of dozen MPs was only one reason. The eagerness of members of the Shadow Cabinet to don hair shirts and take the blame for the loss has sounded insincere as well as unconvincing.

The search for scapegoats and traitors is always an evasion, and usually a politically dishonest one. "Blame the MPs" disguises the real reasons why the Tories lost and puts off the necessary inquest. Labour wasted the first half of the 1979-83 parliament obsessed with internal constitutional arguments. At least the Tories are now sensibly trying to resolve these matters much more quickly with the final package approved next spring.

But apart from yesterday's debate, there has been a marked reluctance so far to face up to the consequences of defeat. The Labour victory has been seen as merely a triumph of public relations and most speakers have failed to recognise, let alone understand, the change in public mood.

Many Tories, including quite a few ex-ministers, talk and behave as if they were still in office. They have sounded complacent in referring to the "golden legacy" which Labour has inherited, almost as if there was nothing wrong with the last Government's policies. The Major Government did have a better record than was widely thought at the time. But not only is this the wrong time to make such self-justificatory claims, but it also hinders the necessary re-thinking by the party. One historically minded MP joked that the mood must have been similarly unreal in Vichy in 1943.

The Tory leadership hopes that yesterday's debate will end the party's public soul-searching. But its readjustment to its new position is only beginning.

PETER RIDDELL

Redwood moves to another planet

By ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN REDWOOD sought yesterday to dispel once and for all his image as a Vulcan by transporting himself to planet Jupiter.

Having been dogged for years by the Vulcan nickname, he has decided to reinvent himself. The Mr Spock of British politics, so called because of his alien air and slight resemblance to the *Star Trek* character, presented a softer image at the party conference yesterday.

Mr Redwood, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, sported a fresh haircut, a warm grin, and stylish suit and tie. As the loudspeakers played the Jupiter sequence from Gustav Holst's *Planets*, he marched through the

conference hall to the platform to cheers and loud applause.

His speech was intended to reveal that Mr Redwood had a sense of humour after all. "Yes, that music was from the *Planet Suite*," he declared. "Some attribute to me super-human powers. Given the mess that mere mortal Labour politicians are making of things that is no bad thing."

His aides were delighted. "This is the new John," said one. "That showed the warm, humorous, and definitely very human politician. The Vulcan is dead and buried." They clearly do not watch *Star Trek*. Vulcans live for ever.

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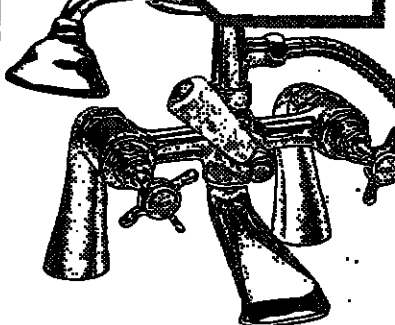
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Victim died 'because fireman halted rescue'

A widow's case questions the brigade's power. Richard Duce reports

A FIREMAN caused the death of a trapped building foreman when he ordered the man's workmates to stop trying to dig him free from a trench, the High Court was told yesterday.

A case for compensation brought by the dead man's widow is thought to be the first personal-injury claim against firemen involved in a rescue operation. Eileen Daly, 66, of Downham, southeast London, claims that the workmates of her husband, Hugh, could have saved him and that Station Officer Bob Smith had no lawful authority to instruct them to stop.

Mr Daly, 51, suffocated to death under 12ft of earth after the trench collapsed on him in September 1991 at the site of a new sports centre in Guildford, Surrey. Richard Davies, QC, for Mrs Daly, said that Mr Daly was trapped after he climbed into the trench to mend a broken pipe.

Bernard O'Halloran, a digger driver, began a rescue attempt and removed 3ft of

earth from an adjacent trench in an attempt to reach Mr Daly, who was being fed oxygen through a pipe by ambulancemen. The fireman ordered a halt to the rescue attempts while his men took over.

Mr Davies told the court: "Mr O'Halloran says his intention was mechanically to excavate a trench at 90 degrees



Compensation claim: Eileen Daly yesterday

to the existing trench, leaving a barrier of earth between the two trenches, and then to permit a trench box to be lowered so that the final one, two or three feet of earth could be excavated by hand.

"That was the most expeditious way and probably the only way by which Mr Daly could be rescued. What Mr O'Halloran was attempting to do was understood and expressly agreed to by people who had expertise in trench construction.

"Mr O'Halloran's assertion is that Station Officer Smith called out and ordered him to stop. He did that by jumping into the trench Mr O'Halloran had dug, standing on the excavator bucket and telling him to stop, that he was in charge, and that if anything happened to the man he, Mr O'Halloran, could find himself on a charge of manslaughter.

"Mr O'Halloran regrets following that instruction to this day. Had Mr O'Halloran been allowed to continue or resume his activities, the deceased

would, on the balance of probabilities, have been saved alive."

Firemen started their own rescue attempt. Forty minutes later, they got close enough to Mr Daly, but a doctor pronounced that he was certainly dead. Mr Daly's workmates were then allowed to continue their excavations. His body was dug free nearly three hours after he became trapped.

Mr Davies said that members of the fire brigade could take over a situation only in the event of a fire. Other duties such as rescues were "special duties" which they had no legal obligation to perform, he said.

Mrs Daly is claiming damages for alleged negligence from Surrey County Council, which is responsible for the actions of Surrey Fire Brigade. The council denies liability, claiming that Station Officer Smith, now retired, acted correctly and that the digger operated by Mr O'Halloran was making matters worse. The hearing continues.



Faces from the past: Women of Fyston celebrating on VE-Day. Below, the photographer Jack Hulme



Rescue for pit pictures that made a village cry

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PHOTOGRAPHIC record of life in a mining village has been saved from certain destruction. Shot on volatile nitrate film, the scenes were gradually degrading into an explosive jelly which threatened to burst into flames.

Now the 15,000 images are being transferred first to modern safety film and eventually on to a CD-Rom computer disc, in a £2,000 project at Pontefract Museum, west Yorkshire. The pictures, dating from the Depression to the 1960s, were shot by Jack Hulme, a disabled pit worker in nearby Fyston.

Richard Van Riel, the museum's curator, said: "As an historical document, his photographs are irreplaceable. We put on an exhibition in the village and we couldn't believe the response. Some people were in tears as many could not afford cameras when they were younger and got to see their parents' faces for the first time in years."

Mr Hulme, who died aged 83 in 1990, took many of the pictures on surplus film from RAF stock which had to be cut up to fit his camera. Many were of weddings and funerals as he used his wife's gift of a Leica camera to earn extra cash. As a child, he had lost the use of one of his legs in a playground accident, but went down the pit as a first-aider and also worked as village barber.

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Death of Princess could cut alcohol limits

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

THE death of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be invoked today by Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, when he calls on Britain and seven other EU states to bring their drink-driving limits to a standard level of 50 milligrams per litre of blood. The level represents about two glasses of wine or a pint of beer.

The deaths of the Princess and Dodi Fayed, her companion, in a crash that also killed Henri Paul — their driver, who had been drinking — had focused public attention on the dangers of drunken driving. Mr Kinnock is due to tell EU Transport Ministers. About 40,000 people had been killed on EU roads since the Paris accident. "If, at a time when there is widespread and justified public grief about that tragedy, there can also be deeper public understanding about the causes of those preventable deaths then perhaps some good can come out of the horror."

The Government has welcomed Mr Kinnock's initiative and said it plans to reduce the British limit from 80 milligrams to 50 next year. Britain has the lowest accident rate in the EU.

France, which has twice Britain's road-death rate, has enforced a 50 milligram limit for the past three years. Sweden has the lowest limit in the EU at 20 milligrams. The death rate is highest in Greece, Portugal and Belgium. Most EU states allow random alcohol testing of drivers.

Mr Kinnock cited British and French scientific evidence that shows that the risk of accident is doubled when the blood alcohol content is 80 and by ten times when the level is 160. The Commission is trying to orchestrate an EU-wide effort to bring down an accident rate that kills 45,000 people a year and injures 1.6 million on the roads of the 15 member states. Alcohol is implicated in a quarter of all road accidents that cause injury in the EU, in half that cause deaths and in 65 per cent of accidents that involve a single car, Mr Kinnock is to tell the ministers.

'Lollipop' may lick problem of drivers on drugs

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCIENTISTS are developing a "lollipop" roadside test to identify drivers under the influence of drugs. The saliva-based analysis, based on one lick by the suspected motorist, is believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

Drivers on drugs are a rapidly growing problem in Britain. A Department of Transport study revealed that a quarter of people involved in fatal accidents in the 11 months from October 1996 had taken drugs, 20 per cent of which were illegal.

The hand-held testing device is being developed by Cozart Bioscience in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and is undergoing accuracy trials with forensic scientists at Glasgow University. Prototypes are in production and it could be ready for use in a year, although legislation would have to be introduced to give police powers to take a saliva test.

Early trials show that it is 95-100 per cent accurate, a success rate comparable to conventional laboratory urine and blood tests. Ten different drugs, including cannabis, Ecstasy, cocaine, methadone, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, opiates including heroin and morphine, and barbiturates, can be detected

by the device. Police using the "lollipop" would ask suspect motorists to place an absorbent swab attached to a plastic "lolly" stick into their mouth to take a saliva sample.

The disposable swab would then be placed in a mobile-phone-sized test box which would give a digital reading of the drugs present within five minutes. The chemical test box uses immunoassay, or antibodies, to detect substances.

If the test proved positive, officers would then take the person to a police station where a second, conventional, blood or urine sample would be taken for a corroborating analysis in a laboratory. At the moment there is no on-the-spot screening device to help police to identify drivers on drugs. Traffic officers have

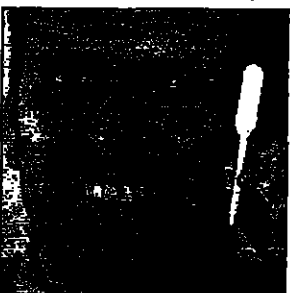
to rely on recognising the symptoms of drug-taking and must have a suspicion the motorist's driving is impaired before they can require a conventional test.

The "lollipop" has been developed over the past year with a £45,000 grant from the Department of Trade and Industry. The company has already had talks with the Forensic Science Service, the agency for the Home Office, which would have to give its approval before the device was adopted by forces nationwide.

The Department of Transport and the Home Office have also shown interest in a cigar-shaped skin-swipe developed in Germany which can detect four different drugs from sweat samples.

According to Christopher Hand, managing director of Cozart, the "lollipop" could also be used for employee screening and by drug clinics. It could be further developed for sport to detect drugs such as steroids. The cost of the device has not yet been released.

"There is no roadside test for drugs at the moment, but this could be used in the same way as the hand-held breathalyser. As far as we know it is the first of its kind in the world," he said.



Christopher Hand with his "lollipop" tester

Breathalyser has saved 62,000 lives

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

THE breathalyser cost just five shillings when it was introduced 30 years ago today, but it has saved an estimated 62,000 lives.

The hand-held "blow-in-the-bag" gadget became part of British life after Barbara Castle, then the Transport Minister, decided that action was needed to reduce the toll of road casualties. About 2,000 people were dying in drink-driving accidents every year, at Christmas 1966, 158 were killed in five days.

Before the 1967 Road Safety Act, driving under the influence of a few drinks was often viewed with more amusement than concern. As Mrs Castle formulated her plans, newspapers were filled with indignation at the supposed infringement of motorists' rights and warnings that pubs would go out of business.

A device was needed that was small enough for police to carry yet accurate enough to

provide evidence that the driver was over the limit. The answer came from Dräger, based in Northumberland. Its Alcotest 80 machine, approved by Mrs Castle, was an arrangement in which the driver blew over a phial of crystals which changed colour to signal that there was more than 80mg of alcohol in the blood.

In spite of all the fuss raised over the introduction of the breathalyser, motorists were caught by surprise when police started using it. The first test was administered on a motorist in Somerset on the first day of the new law.

Drink-related road deaths fell 11 per cent in the first year after the breathalyser's introduction. Last year such deaths were down to 540 from that horrific peak in the Sixties.

At 60mg of alcohol in blood, a driver's chances of having a fatal accident double, according to the British Medical Association.



Father is not past his peak: mother Crackers and one of her calves yesterday

Sporting giraffe achieves a double

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN ELDERLY giraffe has surprised staff at London Zoo by fathering offspring by two mates within less than a month of each other. At the age of 22, he was thought to have been too old for parenthood.

The father is named Hillary, after the mountaineer Sir Edmund. Yesterday the zoo was looking for ideas for names for the two male calves, possibly continuing a tradition of sporting heroes.

Andy James, one of his keepers, said: "Hillary is a bit old for this sort of thing. The average life of a giraffe in captivity is only about 25 years, but he still seems interested in the ladies."

In the past, calves have been named after the footballer Gary Lineker, the ski-jumper Eddie the Eagle, the runner Sally Gunnell and the tennis star Virginia Wade. Mr James said: "It's about time we had another footballer."

Hillary's two mates, Dawn and Crackers, gave birth on the August 25 and September 8. As the calves went before the cameras yesterday, they were still shy with strangers, and stuck by their mothers in the zoo's custom-built enclosure.

Since they arrived at the zoo, Crackers has had eight calves and Dawn nine. All were fathered by Hillary.

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Warning bells ring for Europe's forests



Facing destruction: Glenfeshie Forest is dying because of overgrazing by sheep and deer, claims the WWF

Conservationists fear woods may not survive next century, says Nick Nuttall

AN ANCIENT Scottish pine forest, said to be "dying on its feet", is among thousands of woodland regions worldwide in need of urgent protection if they are to survive the next century, conservationists said yesterday.

The warning about Glenfeshie Forest came from the World Wide Fund for Nature as it produced research, based on satellite images, showing that two thirds of the woodlands that covered the globe after the last Ice Age have been cleared for agriculture and housing. The charity said the level of loss of forests was rising in Asia and Europe, triggering catastrophic destruction of landscape and wildlife.

In Brazil, site of the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, forest loss is said to have increased by more than a third in the past five years. Martin Mathers, of the fund, said the inability of governments to adequately protect special, old-growth forests was not confined to the developing world.

Glenfeshie Forest, in the Cairngorms, part of a privately owned 17,000-hectare estate which has recently been put



on the market for £6 million. It is one of only eight remnants of the once-mighty Caledonian forests. The area is home to pine martens, golden eagles, wildcats, red squirrels, capercaillie and the Scottish crossbill, the only British bird found nowhere else in the world. The forest is dying, however, because no new trees are surviving the overgrazing by sheep and deer. Simon Pepper, head of WWF Scotland, said: "Glenfeshie is dying on its feet and exemplifies the fate of native forests in the UK as a whole."

In theory Glenfeshie, of which only 250 hectares of the ancient forest remains, is a protected area under national and proposed European habitat directives. The system of voluntary arrangements between government nature agencies and landowners which operates in Britain has failed to conserve the site.

Mr Mathers said: "I was in the forest recently and we could not find a tree under 150 years old." A spokesman for the Forestry Commission said yesterday that it and Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government's wildlife advisers, were trying to put a consortium together to buy the land.

There are fears, however, that yet another private purchaser, keen on sporting and shooting rather than conservation, may buy Glenfeshie. The news came as fund launched a list of 100 of Europe's most biologically important forests which it wants governments to protect properly by 2000. The list has been compiled by the group in co-operation with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, scientists, government experts and conservationists.

Satellite images show that 62 per cent of Europe's original forest cover has been lost, with Britain losing 97 per cent, the fund says. The group claims that 98 per cent of Europe's remaining ancient forests are unprotected, with valuable woodlands in Scandinavia to temperate rainforests in Georgia and Turkey disappearing.

The fund called on European Governments to follow the lead of Finland, where the Government has allocated £530 million to buy and protect valuable old-growth forests.

The fund's research indicates that the Asian Pacific has lost 88 per cent of its original forest cover; Europe 62 per cent; Africa 45 per cent; Latin America, 41 per cent; North America, 39 per cent; and Russia 35 per cent.

Forest similar to those in Indonesia which have triggered huge, health-damaging, smogs throughout the region, are also raging in the Amazon. Steve Howard, of the fund, said yesterday. He claims 500,000 hectares — an area a quarter the size of Wales — is ablaze, out of an area of 500 million acres.

Mr Howard said that, despite laws requiring owners of land to keep 80 per cent of it covered in forest, Brazil's deforestation continued out of control. The fund calculates that, for every 200 hectares burnt legally, 1,000 are burnt accidentally.

Dutch elm disease reaches all parts

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

DUTCH elm disease has invaded the last part of Britain left untouched by the lethal infection, which during the past 30 years has virtually wiped out what was once among the most familiar of native trees.

Scientists have diagnosed the sickness in an elm in a garden near Nairn, on the south coast of the Moray Firth. Derek Redfern, a tree pathologist with the Forestry Commission at Roslin, near Edinburgh, said: "The disease has been moving north, but this is the first case we have found in the Moray Firth, the only area that was still free of infection."

Dutch elm disease — so-called because scientists in The Netherlands were the first to study it in detail — is

caused by a microscopic fungus, *Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*. The fungus is spread by two types of flying beetle that lay their eggs in elm bark.

Dr Redfern said it was possible that the Nairn tree was an isolated case, caused by the chance introduction of the fungus on logs or firewood, but if that was not so it would be difficult to stop the disease spreading. "The only way of halting the disease is to destroy the tree before the bark beetle has a chance to migrate," he said. "But in a rural area it is difficult to be sure you have identified all the infected trees."

The current epidemic began in 1965 in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and is estimated to have killed 25 million elms.

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THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Kevin Keegan

TIMES readers are invited to a Times/Dillons forum on Thursday October 16 in London with Kevin Keegan, the former manager of Newcastle United. Keegan, who was also an England international footballer, will be the star speaker on a panel which will include Oliver Holt, football correspondent of *The Times*. Among the topics for discussion are details of Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle last season, his views on modern management, his return to football with Fulham and England's World Cup prospects.

The forum marks the publication of Keegan's *My Autobiography* (Little Brown £16.99) and will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 at 7.30pm. Admission price is £10 (concessions £7.50) and includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to put questions to him.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

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Papon at risk of jail death, says lawyer

The final act of a judicial marathon began yesterday as a frail 87-year-old faced claims that he deported hundreds to die, writes Ben Macintyre in Bordeaux

MAURICE PAPON, the elderly retired civil servant on trial for deporting hundreds of Jews to Nazi death camps in the Second World War, confronted his accusers across a Bordeaux courtroom for the first time yesterday as his lawyer argued that the accused man could die if held in jail throughout the long judicial process.

M. Papon, 87, appeared frail but self-controlled behind a bullet-proof glass screen as his lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, threatened legal action if the stress of imprisonment proved fatal to his client, who is suffering from heart disease. "I solemnly declare that if he does not survive, his family and his lawyers will pursue all those responsible," M. Varaut said, noting that M. Papon underwent triple bypass surgery last year.

The former senior official of

the pro-Nazi Vichy regime is accused of organising the deportation of more than 1,500 Jews from Bordeaux between 1943 and 1944, only a handful of whom survived the Nazi gas chambers.

Under French law, M. Papon is liable to be held in detention throughout the trial, but his lawyers insisted there was no danger that he would attempt to flee and that he should be freed on bail.

M. Varaut argued that his client, who he described as "the oldest prisoner in the world", had slept for only three hours during his first night in prison on the eve of the trial, and claimed that the strain of incarceration had already caused "the beginnings of suffocation".

He said M. Papon was being held in a ten-square-metre cell without special medical equipment and had been forced to use a special device several times during the night to prevent a heart attack.

In a sign of what is to come in a trial that will last for at least three months, lawyers for the defence, prosecution and civil plaintiffs in the case sketched vehemently over whether the ageing bureaucrat should be freed during his trial.

M. Papon, who was clad in a blue suit and dark tie, cut a composed if gaunt figure — the model of an austere civil servant — at the beginning of the final act of a judicial marathon that has taken 16 years to come to court, more than half a century after the events in question.

But in a sign of his nervousness, M. Papon's long fingers entwined and his brow furrowed repeatedly as he gazed

directly ahead. When asked to comment, M. Papon declared in a clear voice that he wished to "work with legal advisers without having to put up with the intolerable weight of detention".

Only once did he smile: when his lawyer politely referred to him as "M. le ministre", a reference to the highest office of his glittering post-war career as budget minister under President Giscard d'Estaing.

According to judicial experts, if M. Papon is released on bail for the trial, he is likely to remain at liberty, even if sentenced to life imprisonment during the long appeals process that is sure to follow. If so, the ailing accused war criminal's current stay in Grignion jail may be his first and last experience of prison.

M. Papon has threatened to refuse to answer questions in court if he is forced to remain in detention, prompting an angry response from his accusers.

Gerard Boulanger, a lawyer representing many of the families of Jews deported on M. Papon's orders, described the threat as "more blackmail". "Once again he is fleeing and hiding in the shadows," M. Boulanger said.

M. Varaut, however, argued that keeping the former Paris police chief in a prison for common criminals was unfair and unnecessary.

On Tuesday night, as M. Papon arrived at Grignion, outside Bordeaux, fellow inmates greeted him with insults and cries of "Death to Papon".

The accused man is one of the few people still alive from



The grey-haired Maurice Papon arrives at the court yesterday at the start of his trial for deporting hundreds of Jews to Nazi gas chambers

the wartime era, M. Varaut argued, noting the "graveyard full of witnesses," which, he suggested, M. Papon would be in danger of joining if he continued to be held under such "inhuman conditions".

But prosecutors and civil plaintiffs argued that M. Papon should not receive special treatment, given the gravity of the charges against him.

The prosecutors insisted that M. Papon represented a slight risk, pointing out that

while he was officially under judicial supervision, he had been staying in Marbella, Spain, since the beginning of July — a fact that was not made known to prosecutors until September 17.

Henri Desclaux, the chief prosecutor, said that he was prepared to consider other forms of incarceration, "including hospitalisation".

The families of those who perished in Auschwitz opposed making M. Papon's life

more comfortable, pointing to the atrocities in which he had allegedly played such a key role.

"I've been having nightmares for two weeks thinking I'm going to breathe the same air as that man," Therese Stopnicki, whose younger sisters were among those deported from Bordeaux, said.

More than a hundred witnesses will be summoned to the heavily guarded Bordeaux Palace of Justice in the coming

weeks as the court attempts to establish not only M. Papon's precise role in the Final Solution, but also the complex political and moral environment of the entire Vichy era.

The court appointed two doctors, including a heart specialist, to examine M. Papon in his cell. They were ordered to deliver their opinion by mid-day today.

Before yesterday's opening session, ceremonies of remembrance were held at Merignac,

the site of a Second World War holding camp for deportees, and at a synagogue near the court. At Merignac, Serge Klarsfeld, the French Nazi hunter, joined Jewish groups to read out the names of dozens of Jewish children allegedly deported on M. Papon's orders.

A poll published yesterday showed French opinion split over the importance of the trial, with 42 per cent expressing little or no interest.



Varaut plans two-day speech for the defence

Defender of hopeless causes tackles his toughest case yet

By Ben Macintyre

JEAN-MARC VARAUT has spent his legal career defending unpopular causes. But for sheer parish status none of his former clients comes close to Maurice Papon.

"The enmity evoked by the accused Nazi collaborator — and being heaped by association on his lawyer — is precisely the spark that motivates M. Varaut: lawyer, poet, historian, monarchist and patron of dubious, controversial or apparently lost causes.

"When people are unanimously against one man, that is the moment to be a lawyer," M. Varaut, 62, observed before the trial began. "I do not choose my clients. I am chosen." M. Varaut faces an

uphill task: to persuade the jury, not to mention French public opinion, that M. Papon is innocent of crimes against humanity. But his colleagues say that if anyone can swing the case it is the quiet, cerebral and determined barrister from Paris.

For two years M. Varaut has ploughed through 20,000 pages of documents and countless books on the Papon case, preparing a defence speech he says will last two full days — the longest pleading in French legal history.

M. Varaut prides himself on his sense of the past, which suggests an affinity with history's martyrs. He makes no secret of his advocacy the

notion of King Louis XVI or former president for Algeria François Bayrou — but insists his association with the Right is "pure chance".

He agreed to defend M. Papon, he says, because he is "convinced that this man did nothing but his duty throughout his life".

A solid bulldog of a man, M. Varaut, a chronic insomniac, looks like a veteran boxer alongside his spare and elegant client. M. Varaut combines an establishment pedigree with a reputation for dogged perseverance that will ensure M. Papon does not go down without a stupendous fight.

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Hezbollah raid casts pall over peace summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli and Palestinian leaders held their first summit for eight months yesterday, a move described by President Clinton as "not a moment too soon".

Only hours after Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat met, the tinderbox atmosphere in the region was underlined by reports from occupied southern Lebanon that five more Israeli soldiers had been killed and eight wounded in two ambushes mounted by the Iranian-backed Islamic group Hezbollah.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat have now agreed to meet regularly. The snap summit came amid jitters about Israeli-Palestinian conflict and training exercises by Israeli forces designed to facilitate the reconquest of West Bank towns and cities handed over to the control of Mr Arafat under the terms of the

1993 peace accord. The seriousness of the Arab-Israeli crisis was underlined by President Clinton, whose special envoy, Dennis Ross, arranged the two-and-a-half-hour meeting on the Gaza-Israel border.

The most important thing is it occurred and it occurred not a moment too soon," Mr Clinton said of the pre-dawn summit. "We have had some difficult developments in the Middle East. It may be that the developments of the last few days have been so troubling that it has got the attention of both sides."

"I hope that this is what happened," the President added, showing his concern over the deterioration of relations between the Netanyahu Government and Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority which observers had predicted would abandon the 1993 peace accord.

The summit took place

under a news blackout imposed when both leaders left without speaking to reporters. Mr Ross, who will return to the region for more intensive diplomacy next week, said both had agreed to hold talks regularly.

Israel sent a doctor with an antidote to the mystery poison used in the bungled assassination attempt on Khaled Meshaal, the Hamas politburo chief in Jordan. Israeli sources said that the chances of saving the life of Mr Meshaal, now released from hospital, had been only 50-50.

King Hussein of Jordan said yesterday that if Mr Meshaal had died, he would have broken off the 1994 peace treaty he signed with Israel.

The King said he had told President Clinton "that for me, the life of the peace process hangs on the life of this Jordanian".



Iranian girls wearing the bright chadors typical of many rural areas, in contrast to the black garments common in most of the country

No drop-out for hippies financing aged parents and growing children

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

PEOPLE over 85 are the fastest growing age group in America, and this new demographic category, "the Old Old", is placing an unprecedented strain on the middle-aged generation which must care for them, and which must at the same time pay fat bills for children who have not quite flown the coop.

The current buzzword for this over-burdened group, known in happier times as "the Woodstock generation" or the Baby Boomers, is the "Sandwich Generation".

Writing in the current issue of *The New Yorker* magazine, the author James Atlas explains that they are so called because they find themselves "simultaneously writing cheques for their children's college tuition and their parent's nursing home bills".

The problem is exacerbated by the fact that this generation, which still reveals a residue of the happy-go-lucky Baby Boomer mentality, has been much worse at saving money than previous generations.

Finding themselves now, as Mr Atlas puts it, to be the first American generation with "more parents than offspring", many of the country's middle-class middle-aged are reeling from an embarrassing shortage of funds. This is aggravated by the fact that many women in two-income

families are being forced to stay at home with parents who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, which afflicts almost half of all people aged over 85.

Modish economists are calling these families "the hidden poor", although most members of this class would probably prefer to describe themselves as suffering from problems of liquidity. The meaning, of course, is the same but the alternative expression is more genteel.

The Old Old are putting a considerable strain on household budgets. According to recent surveys, American families as a group now spend approximately \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) a month on caring for elderly parents and relatives. In fact, 22.4 million American households are involved in caring for elderly family members today, up from only 7 million households ten years ago.

At the same time, more than ten million students are enrolled at universities with the tuition cost of an average four-year degree ranging from \$39,000 at a state university to \$82,000 at the Ivy League end of the scale.

So acute is the budgetary strain that many banks are offering the Sandwich Generation advice on "inter-generational financial planning".



The hippy generation is now sandwiched between two generations and is struggling to pay for both

Clinton faces gripe of wine industry wrath

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN wine growers have uncorked a torrent of sour grapes against President Clinton, refusing to support his request for fast-track negotiating authority until he provides a long-promised boost to their sales abroad.

During a series of visits to Capitol Hill, leading Californian vineyard owners have expressed their anger with the President's plans to build on the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pact they had been assured would result in more competitive pricing for American wines in Mexico. In 1993, the Wine Institute, which represents the biggest vineyards such as Ernest and

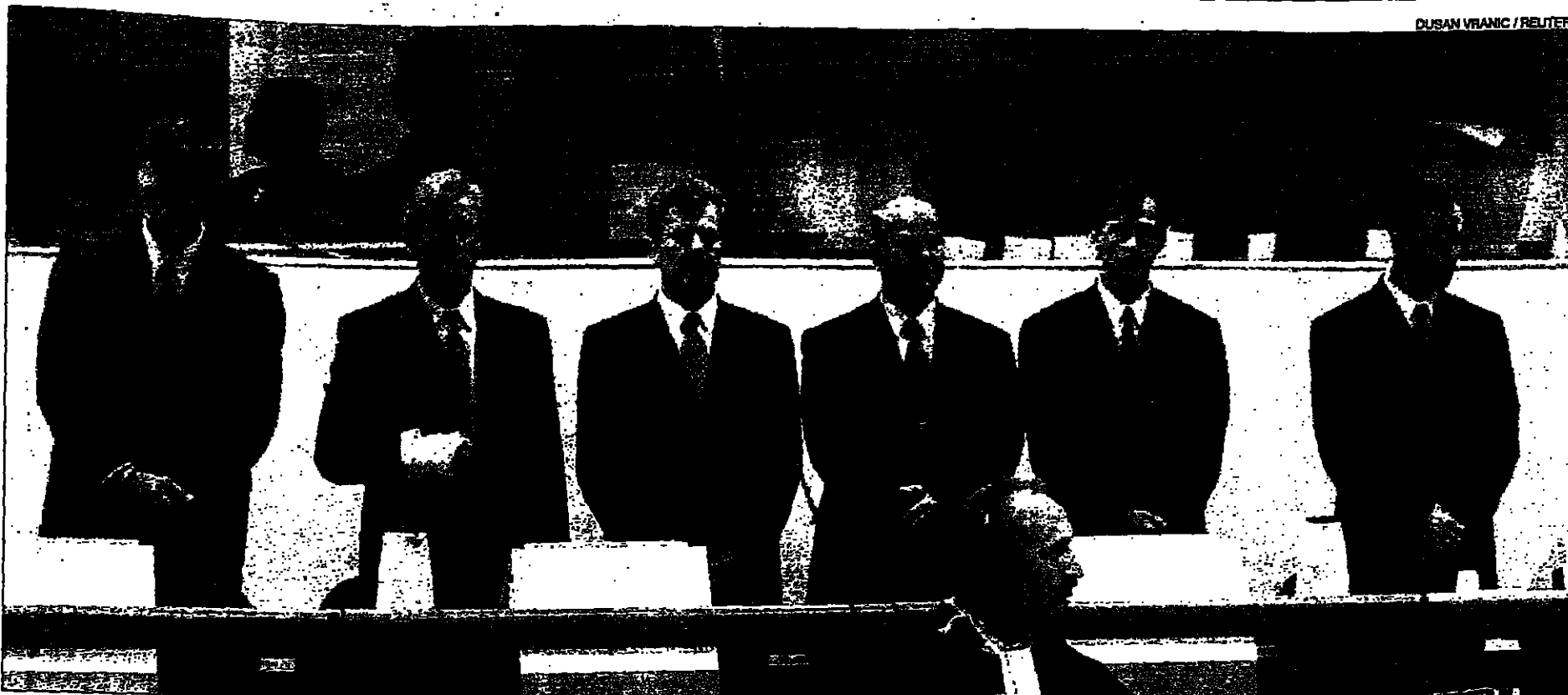
Julio Gallo Wine, had lobbied for the passage of NAFTA after winning a promise from Mickey Kantor, then US Trade Representative, to negotiate lower tariffs and so place American wine exports on an equal footing with Chile in the Mexican market. Mr Kantor failed to keep his promise.

The wine-makers are now refusing to play ball. They are the highest profile antagonists to a fast-track bill by which Mr Clinton hopes to gain extra powers in negotiating trade policy free of congressional interference. The Administration is now concerned that the issue may become a referendum on NAFTA.

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Bosnian Croats in court at The Hague yesterday. From left, Dragan Papic, Marinko Katava, Drago Josipovic, Vladimir Santic, Mirjan Kupreskic and Zoran Kupreskic

Croatians deny war crimes charges

FROM CHARLES BREMINER IN BRUSSELS

THE Bosnian Croat who was highest on the United Nations' wanted list yesterday pleaded not guilty at the International War Crimes tribunal in The Hague to charges that he ordered the killing or deportation of thousands of Bosnian Muslim civilians in the former Yugoslavia.

Dario Kordic, 36, one of ten Bosnian Croats who surrendered to UN forces on Monday, repeated "not guilty" in confident tones to each of 13 charges of crimes against humanity that were read to him in the courtroom in The Hague.

Last Monday's detention of Mr Kordic and the other nine, who also entered not guilty pleas, was a big advance for The Hague tribunal, which

had so far taken only ten suspects into custody out of 77. Two have been convicted. Almost all of those still at large



Kordic charged with supervising killings

are Bosnian Serbs. Intense American diplomatic pressure on President Tudjman of Croatia is deemed to have led to the surrender of Mr Kordic and his compatriots. Mr Kordic had until recent months lived openly in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The ten said before their surrender that they had agreed to stand trial in return for a promise of speedy proceedings and all insisted that they could prove their innocence. "My conscience is clear before God and before the Croatian people," Mr Kordic said before boarding a Dutch military plane at Split.

Mr Kordic, a former senior political leader of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Croat republic, is accused of command-

ing the operation that drove Muslims from the central Lasva Valley in 1992 and 1993. His men conducted "systematic and wanton" bombing and burning of at least 14 Muslim towns, the indictment says.

Hundreds of people were killed, according to the indictment, and thousands of Muslims were taken to detention camps, all under Mr Kordic's direction. He is also accused of organising paramilitary squads that had orders to "kill, terrorise or demoralise" Muslims.

Six of the accused are said to have taken part in an attack on the village of Ahmici in 1993, the scene of the worst massacre in Mr Kordic's alleged campaign of "ethnic cleansing". More than 100



Muslims were killed by gunfire or shelling. Every Muslim-owned house and two mosques were destroyed.

No date for a trial was set. If convicted, the men face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Officials at The Hague tribunal have denied Croatian claims that the

men had been assured that they would be tried within three to five months. The court is already trying another Bosnian Croat, Tihomir Blaskic, a general who is also accused of commanding "ethnic cleansing" operations. Zlatko Aleksovski, another Bosnian Croat cited in the Kordic indictment, is in tribunal custody awaiting trial.

The detention of the ten Croatians has served to undermine the argument of the Bosnian Serbs that they are being unfairly targeted by the tribunal.

There are no signs, however, that Radovan Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, and Ratko Mladic, his military chief during the war, are any closer to being detained.

Yeltsin security officer 'bugged corrupt aides'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SENIOR Russian figures, including ministers and close aides of President Yeltsin, have been accused of corruption and betrayal by a former intelligence officer who bugged and monitored their activities for years on behalf of the Kremlin leader.

Colonel Valeri Streletsky, who headed a secret investigative department inside the Presidential Security Service, said yesterday that he had collected material that compromised some of the most powerful figures in Russia.

Earlier this year General Aleksandr Kozhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard and friend, published an explosive best-seller revealing intimate details of life inside the Kremlin and in particular the Russian leader's battle with alcoholism. The book has sold half a million copies.

Colonel Streletsky was General Kozhakov's most trusted subordinate and headed a department, which bugged the phones of ministers and senior officials. He plans to publish a book next year.

In an interview with the *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, the former KGB officer said that he had decided to go public with the material because he "felt obliged to tell people what was going on in the corridors of power". Among other allegations, he charged that Maksim Boiko, a deputy Prime Minister in charge of privatisation, had changed his name from Shambert, that he had secretly obtained an American "green card" and that his father was in America teaching at an academy run by the CIA.

In another damaging charge, he alleged that Sergei Filatov, the former head of the presidential administration,

had personal ties with a reputed mafia boss who had paid for the construction of a million-dollar dacha outside Moscow for him.

Colonel Streletsky said that his spies had uncovered at least two senior government figures and one member of the presidential administration, who were co-operating with foreign intelligence services.

He also claimed to have evidence that many top officials have secretly siphoned money into foreign bank accounts and alleged that Oleg Davydov, the former Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, had accounts in America and Poland.

"When Kozhakov found the material he sent it to Yeltsin, but usually no action was taken," the colonel said.

His critics charge that his allegations are politically motivated and aimed at damaging the young reformers running the Government.

Asked to respond to the allegations during a parliamentary debate yesterday, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, said: "I do not read that newspaper."



Kozhakov: revealed secrets from Kremlin

Villagers hail chief suspect in Bosnia atrocity as martyr

FROM TOM WALKER IN AHMICI

IN THE Croatian pockets lining central Bosnia's Lasva valley yesterday, Dario Kordic, the biggest catch yet for the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, has already been accorded the status of martyr.

In his hometown of Busovaca, a huge poster of Mr Kordic flutters alongside a large photograph of Tihomir Blaskic, his friend and general of the Bosnian Croat Army. Further up the valley, above the ruins of Ahmici — a Muslim-dominated town that both are accused of razing to the ground — Croats plead the innocence of their leader. "He sat once in my garden," said

Katica, who recently returned from Germany to her house overlooking Ahmici. "There was no massacre here, the Muslims started it all. They told us from their mosque that we were besieged."

This is not the version told by Western witnesses to the horrors of the Muslim-Croat civil war in central Bosnia in the spring of 1993. They describe how more than 100 Muslims were trapped inside their houses and burnt alive by a Croat militia egged on by the political ambitions of Mr Kordic and his colleagues in the Croat Nationalist Party.

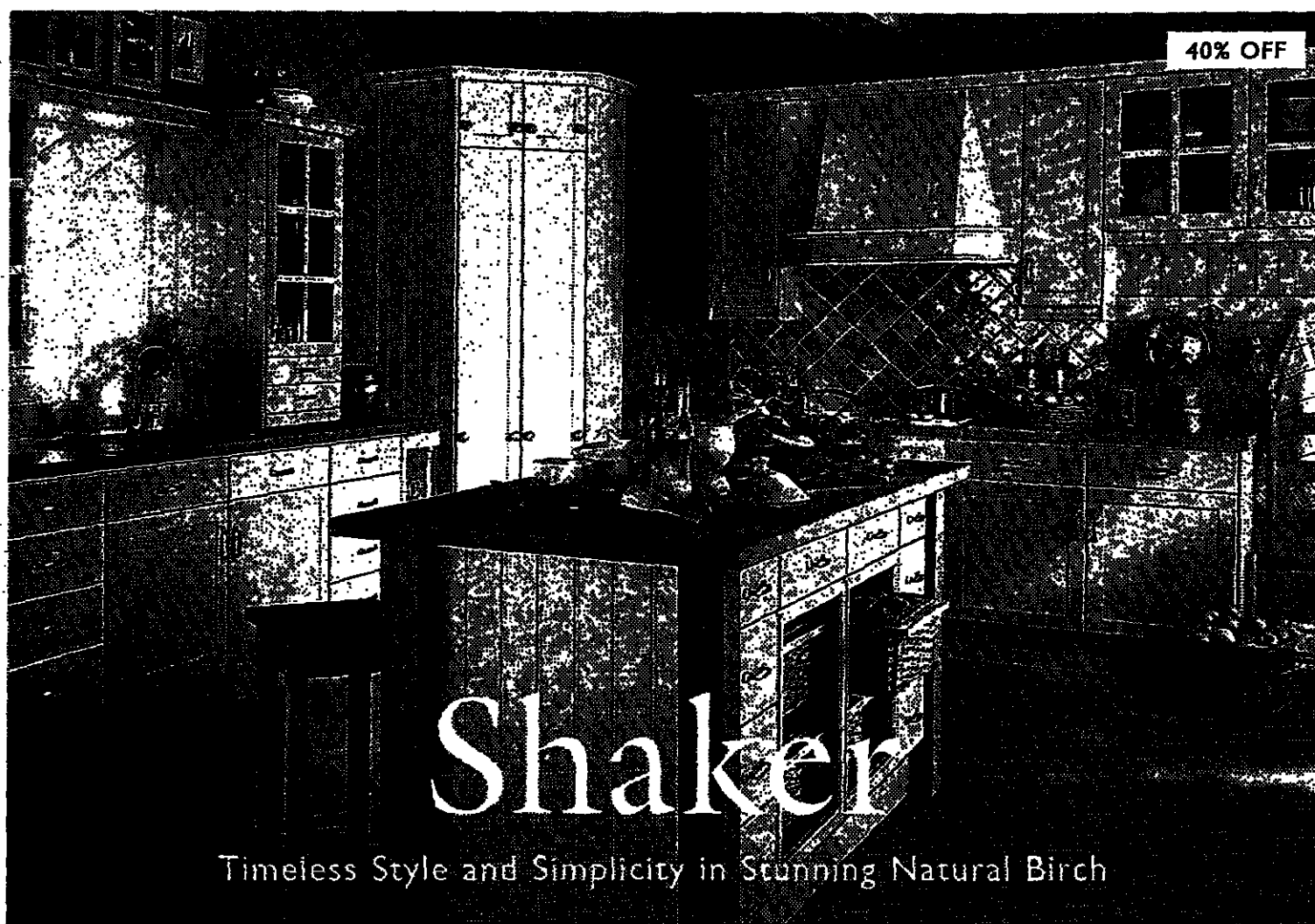
Since the "massacre" — whose "grizzly results" were uncovered by British troops with the former UN Protection Force —

Ahmici has remained a ghost town. Burnt-out houses lie in ruins and acres of fields and orchards abandoned. The mosque is split in two by its fallen minaret, and daubed with obscene graffiti.

The Croat returnees living on the slopes above Ahmici do not allow their children to go near the ruins. Further north, in Vitez, Croats tell of evil spirits haunting Ahmici, of screams of mothers and babies in the night.

Back in Busovaca, the café gossip is of betrayal — not by the West, but by Croatia. Mr Kordic and nine other Bosnian Croats went to The Hague after pressure from President Tudjman of Croatia who is anxious to secure IMF and World Bank funds.

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Police in disarray amid US capital's decline

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE SWIFT decline of Washington was emphasised yesterday by new evidence that the city's police department is out of control, plagued by mismanagement, and even maintains an unguarded warehouse and laboratory filled with guns and drugs.

A leaked report details a catalogue of appalling conditions, lost evidence and failed cases, as well as corruption and theft by officers.

The confidential survey, obtained by *The Washington Post*, comes eight months after the police union described the city as a third world war zone patrolled by a third-rate force.

Prepared by Book-Allen and Hamilton, a firm of consultants, the report found numerous examples of disarray in the warehouse for evidence.

One officer was injured last year when he accidentally split PCP, the hallucinogenic drug, over himself. Medical evidence from rape victims is often spoiled in the heat of the storage area. Computers regularly crash, and evidence is lost. Weapons and drugs are

stored in a "ready-made shack" about 50ft from the open doors of the warehouse, where the report said there was "absolutely no security" at night.

Officers and civilians steal petrol from police fuel pumps and 7 per cent of squad cars are constantly missing. Officers were involved in 195 car crashes in police vehicles last year.

In a city that has one of the highest per capita murder rates in the United States, 49 of its homicide detectives have not closed a case in the last year, and the Justice Department has identified more than 100 murder cases between 1991 and 1994 that could have been solved more quickly but for basic failures in police work.

Last week Larry Soulesby, the chief of police, announced that 22 federal agents would join detectives in attempting to solve old cases. "We're changing the culture," Mr Soulesby said. "We are changing every unit. These are things that have been wrong for 20 years. They didn't occur overnight."

The survey described a litany of mismanagement. Blame for the disarray has been placed not merely on the police department and its beleaguered chief, but on Marion Barry, the city's Mayor, who has failed to recognise the need for additional police funding.

Mr Barry, filmed by the FBI smoking crack cocaine with a former model, was jailed for six months in 1990 after three terms as Mayor. He was re-elected three years ago, but has failed to improve conditions in Washington, resulting in a federal proposal to run the city's budget.



Barry: re-elected after six-month jail sentence



Jane Fonda in Washington this week. The actress, whose campaign is funded by Durex, says that it is unrealistic to promote abstinence

Activist Fonda promotes British condom

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JANE FONDA, the liberal actress whose political activism was renowned during the Vietnam War, is once more pursuing a controversial warpath, angering conservatives with her promotion of the British condom.

The debate over whether to promote chastity or contraception among the country's teenagers has escalated since Ms Fonda, or Hanoi Jane as she was known, this week became the figurehead of a new drive funded

by Durex Consumer Products, the British-owned manufacturer and the world's largest producer of condoms.

The Truth for Youth campaign, a direct counter-attack against a \$50 million (£31.2 million) federal abstinence education programme, asserts that most Americans want schools to teach abstinence and birth control to their children but argues that the Government campaign prohibits the promotion of contraception. "The Durex company was stunned, as many Americans were, that the federal government is giving \$50 million a

year for five years to states for abstinence-until-marriage programmes," said Ms Fonda, 59.

For the next 14 months she will shuttle throughout the United States demanding that the Government coach teenagers about the unrealistic aspects of marriage and abstinence. Teenage sex, she said, was a fact of life and the Government must provide young Americans with the tools to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

But Ms Fonda's efforts have sparked a row in Washington where

Republican supporters of the Government programme, part of the new Welfare Reform Bill, argue that both she and the Durex company have "completely missed the point".

Senator Lauch Faircloth, a North Carolina Republican, said the Government proposals should include discussions of contraception and sexually-transmitted diseases, including the risks of sexual activity outside marriage. "The root of long-term welfare dependency is the destruction of the family fostered by out-of-wedlock childbearing," he said.

Blacks campaign to erase 'N-word' from dictionary

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN black activists are organising petitions to try to banish the "N-word" from the country's dictionaries.

The move began when a recent issue of *Emergence* magazine observed that the term

"nigger", America's most repugnant racial epithet, appeared in Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*. With scholarly understatement, the authoritative dictionary defines the word as "a black person — usually taken to be offensive". Hundreds of people com-

plained to the company's Massachusetts headquarters, angry that the definition suggests that the word might be an acceptable synonym for black people. Merriam-Webster was forced to issue a statement explaining that its dictionaries print the oldest definition first. "We have

made it clear that the use of this word as a racial slur is abhorrent to us, but it is none the less part of the language, and it is our duty as dictionary makers to report on it," the statement said.

Thousands of signatures have been collected in separate petition drives by Delphine

Abraham, a Michigan computer operator, and Kathryn Williams, the curator of a Museum of African-American History in the state. But the debate is complicated by the increasingly common use of the word by blacks themselves, particularly in rap music.

White House tapes delay fuels row

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE US Justice Department is studying the White House's delay in releasing videotapes of President Clinton's coffee mornings, widening the investigation into the White House's fund-raising practices.

The White House says that the tapes, which show Mr Clinton hosting meetings in the White House with leading Democratic contributors, were discovered last Wednesday. It passed them to the Justice Department on Saturday, a day after Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, rejected more calls for an independent counsel.

Disclosures about the sequence of events have fuelled the Republican clamour for Ms Reno to appoint a special counsel, with senators pressing her to say whether she would have done so on Friday had she known of the tapes.

Yesterday, Harold Ickes, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff, added his evidence in support of the Clinton Administration's position that its fund-raising techniques were legal. "There was no discussion about trying to get foreign money. Illegal money into the Democratic National Committee or the Clinton Gore campaign," he told the Senate committee investigating allegations of fund-raising abuses. "It does not make political sense."

Mr Ickes also denied any knowledge of an alleged illegal cash swap between the Democratic Party and the Teamsters' trade union, which is under investigation by a New York grand jury.

Accusations denied: President Clinton's lawyers have vigorously denied that his genitals have the "distinguishing characteristics" which Paula Jones describes seeing and which have formed one of the main pieces of "evidence" for her claim of sexual harassment. The lawyers' denial came in response to the long-awaited affidavit from Ms Jones giving details of the alleged anatomical characteristics, which were submitted last week.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BODY OF OPINION

Discovering the real Demi Moore. Zoe Heller meets the actress of many disguises

36 PAGES OF MEN'S FASHION

Kim seals hold n power with p party post

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

the North formally took power yesterday, the post of chief of state was broadcast by television and Mr Kim was secretary of the Party of Workers of the North. Kim Il Sung, 82, died in 1994, and his son, Kim Jong Il, took over the leadership. The announcement, made at a ceremony in the capital, Pyongyang, was greeted with a display of fireworks and the firing of guns.

Kim Jong Il, 35, is the son of the late leader, Kim Il Sung, who ruled North Korea for 36 years. He was named as the successor in a report from the North Korean Central News Agency, which said he had been elected to the post of first vice-president of the State Commission for the Construction of a Socialist Society.

The statement said Mr Kim had "trained our people as an independent people with indomitable faith and will, and has opened a new era of the nation's prosperity, with tireless revolutionary activities over the past 30-odd years."

Planning for a dynastic succession — unprecedented in a socialist country — began in 1974, when Mr Kim Jr was elected a member of the central committee's political committee. In 1991, he was appointed supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, and two years later chairman of the National Defence Commission, with total control of the 1.1 million-strong armed forces.

Since the death in July 1994 of Kim Il Sung, the "Great Leader", the posts of party chief and state secretary had remained vacant, although Mr Kim Jr was running the country. The customary two-year mourning period was extended a further year, amid speculation about Mr Kim's difficulty in cementing his power base.

Kim Il Sung's legitimacy was based on his legendary exploits as an anti-Japanese freedom fighter, while his son

could only play the "filial piety" card to justify his inheritance.

The process of formally appointing the "Dear Leader" was launched last month when local party chapters and the military adopted resolutions endorsing Mr Kim as ruling party head.

North Korea watchers predict that Mr Kim will also inherit his late father's title of President on September 9 next year, when North Korea celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Mr Kim's son, Kim Jong Nam, 26, is in turn being groomed as his successor, according to Japanese sources.

South and North Korea concluded a landmark agreement to allow commercial airlines to fly over each other's territory for the first time since their division in 1945, officials said. (AFP)



No dissenters here: North Korean military men unanimously acclaim a resolution paving the way for Mr Kim's takeover of the party



Kim: hard pressed by economic difficulties

Tung promises Hong Kong 'era of compassion'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa, yesterday confirmed a date for elections as he outlined plans for the former British colony's first five years under Chinese rule.

In the first annual policy address to the Legislative Council in Chinese, Mr Tung promised a "new era" of capitalism with a compassionate face. The measures to include new housing, roads and railways will cost HK\$88 billion (£7.2 billion).

The focus of his two-hour speech was on the economy, social problems and bread-and-butter issues. Out of 150 paragraphs he devoted two to Hong Kong's political future, which he hoped might see a fully elected legislature and chief executive within ten years. "We will work steadily towards the long-term objective of having a chief executive and a legislature elected by universal suffrage," Mr Tung said. One sentence referred to the status of women.

The elections for the Legislative Council — next May — will turn back the clock on reforms instigated by Chris Patten, the former Governor, which gave every Hong Kong adult a vote. Next year 20 candidates will emerge from a

proportional representation system which will effectively cut in half the number of democrats and independents who sat in the Legislative Council until the July 1 handover; the other 40 will come from categories for which not many citizens will be permitted a vote.

Martin Lee, the Chairman of the Democratic Party, said he was disappointed. "It seems he is living in another world," he said. "He doesn't even realise the aspirations of Hong Kong people."

The plan sees all Hong Kong people in decent homes in 10 years; boosts welfare for the elderly; promotes family values and Chinese culture, raises education standards, and puts every home, business and school on the Internet.

Although he was careful not to speak of Beijing's approval — and speaking to reporters later Mr Tung said he had not sought it — he reminded his audience that Hong Kong had rejoined China with which its future was now wholly entwined. It was time for Hong Kong to "break free from the psychological constraints of colonialism" and to start making a new history.

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BUDGENS QUALITY CORNER

In Day Five of the du Pré memoir, Piers du Pré felt like a traitor when he left his desperately ill sister alone in New York

'I couldn't believe it. It was like something out of a horror film'

Jackie obediently picked up her tools and set to work. But I couldn't. Instead, anger and frustration welled up within me. Jackie looked utterly beaten and helpless. Her vibrant personality and great talent had been beaten into submission and locked into a cage. I could take no more. Without a word, I wheeled her straight back to her room. I was never going to allow anyone to subject my sister to such degradation ever again.

Jacqueline and Piers: "She was desperate to leave. But it was not to be. After one of those awful long hours, I said, 'I'm going to leave her. No words. I almost ran into the hospital."

The suit had been made especially for her and had to fit exactly to be effective. Standing up allows gravity to try to drain blood from the body to the legs. The leg muscles prevent this. But Jackie's muscles could no longer prevent the draining, and consequent-


to hold her up. As the suit became fully inflated, they gently inched her off the bed until her feet were touching the floor. The compressor was now labouring to push the last little bit of air into the tubes. Finally, the nurses hoisted Jackie to a standing position. "Try using your legs," they

On the eve of Jackie's fifth birthday, Mum left a three-quarter-size cello at the end of her bed. Jackie woke the whole household as she rushed out of her

room, shouting at the top of her voice "Mummy... wake up. Come and see. There's a whopping creature in my room!" Jackie had never seen anyone play the cello and didn't know what to do with it. Mum placed the instrument in front of her and put the bow in her right hand. Jackie took a great swipe at the strings. The cello grunted, "Gently!"



In the absence of suitable cello music for very small children, Mum composed pieces for Jackie, calling the collection *Jackie's First Cello Book*. Each piece was illustrated with a drawing and a story, all suited to five-year-olds. Mum would leave the notebook at the end of Jackie's bed while she was asleep. In the morning, Jackie would find her new piece and Mum would be woken by an excited child, tugging at her nightdress. "Mummy, wake up. I want to try my new piece."

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I stared in amazement. My sister, looking like the Michelin Man, was being pushed around the room.

That evening we went back to the Russian Tea Room and had more vodka, more rich food and more laughter.

The moment was drawing close when we would have to say goodbye. Our last day together was over.

I was fighting the feeling that I should rescue her. I wanted to take her back home with me. She was desperate to leave. But it was not to be. After one of those special, long, family hugs, I turned and left her. No words. I hesitated until I got to the lift. The pull to leave was huge.

As the lift started, I took me to the ground floor. I could hold it no longer. I had to allow the intense grief and pent-up emotion of the last few days to show itself. I almost ran out of the hospital. A cab took me to the Berkshire Hotel where I picked up my suitcase and left for the airport.

I felt like a traitor.

©Hilary and Piers du Pré
1997

● Extracted from *A Genius in the Family*, by Hilary and Piers du Pré, published by Chanto & Windus at £16.99. Readers can buy a copy for £14.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134499

TOMORROW

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This 20 page Special Report on constipation is the main section of the new IBS Bulletin, published quarterly by IBS Researchers at Central Middlesex Hospital to report their progress and to raise funds for their ongoing research into the irritable bowel.

It costs £4.00 including p&pp.

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Published by the IBS Research Group, Central Middlesex Hospital

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THE ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND



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Dr Thomas Stuttford reports from his hospital bed on how he ended up on the operating table after an old friend consulted him about tiredness

How a friend saved me from prostate cancer

It is a week since Roger Kirby, an internationally respected urological surgeon, looked at me and said: "There you are Tom, I told you that a radical prostatectomy is no big deal."

I was by then out of intensive care. My oxygen mask had been discarded, and the only evidence of surgery visible to any visitor were two drains. Roger was right. Less than three days after the operation, I was even able to enjoy watching the last day of the Labour Party conference.

I would have been dealing the intriguing experience of being in, rather than beside, the hospital bed if George, my oldest friend, had not consulted me. George, who works 12 hours a day, had been feeling increasingly tired since January and has also noticed increasing indigestion. Both symptoms had previously been attributed either to his high blood pressure or the treatment being used to bring it down.

This same treatment was also thought to account for the very mild urinary tract symptoms — which involved nothing more than having to urinate more often, and having to get up at night — that had been apparent for a month or two.

Routine checks showed that George's symptoms were not related to his blood pressure but to well-established cancer of the prostate. He is now responding excellently to hormonal treatment.

If George, a contemporary, had this trouble, wasn't I being arrogant in not taking my own advice, so often recommended in this column, by having my PSA assessed?

The PSA is a blood test that helps distinguish benign from malignant prostatic enlargement. An important, and not entirely resolved, diagnostic problem doctors face is detecting prostate cancer at an early stage so that the tumour may

be entirely eradicated. In George's case, as in most, the cancer had already spread beyond the prostate gland by the time it was detected.

The PSA is not perfect — it gives rise to too many false positive readings, so that patients with benign enlargement of the gland are recommended uncomfortable follow-up examinations. There are also a few cases of false negative PSA results, when cancer is present but not suspected.

My PSA, like George's, was

The doctor and I looked at the screen. 'That could be malignant, Tom,' he said

raised — fortunately, only to 8.8, but the usually accepted upper limit of normality is four. My readings were particularly suspicious because the fraction of the PSA labelled free PSA was four times higher than was acceptable. When the balance between total PSA and free PSA is abnormal, suspicions are aroused.

Roger Kirby arranged for the transrectal ultrasound of the prostate, and biopsy, particularly of any doubtful areas. The ultrasound located a spot about a centimetre in diameter that looked abnormal. I looked at the screen with the radiologist who had pointed out the area. "That Tom, could be malignant," he said.

"Possibly, or probably?"

"Probably," he replied. Biopsy showed that he was right. After the initial diagnosis, further tests, scans of the pelvis and all the body's bones

to exclude any secondary growth is necessary. A cardiac assessment, together with other blood tests, is also recommended to make certain the patient is fit enough for surgery if it is advised. "Despite several risk factors, your heart is in good order," the doctor told me. "Aah — that may be the result of an aspirin and half a bottle of claret daily."

I was lucky to know Roger Kirby and be able to ask for his help. And equally fortunate to have as my anaesthetist Dr Peter Amoroso.

In addition, I was in a London clinic that is accustomed to dealing with radical prostatectomies and whose nurses are, therefore, as efficient and expert as they are kindly.

No one, however, warned me about genital swelling. As a student I remember pictures of African tribesmen whose testicles were so enlarged by filariasis that one had needed a wheelbarrow. I was not quite as bad as that but the largest Tudor codpiece or the baggiest Armani suit would not have allowed me to wear trousers. I was relieved to think that having spent a little time in a Scottish regiment I had a tartan, and would have been entitled to wear a kilt.

Other than that, at least in my case, the radical prostatectomy had been "no big deal". But when PSA testing becomes well established, as it undoubtedly will, and the clamour for the operation becomes irresistible, it may well demonstrate a shortage of surgeons and anaesthetists with the appropriate skills.

Worryingly, others, masters in their own field, but perhaps inexperienced in radical prostatectomies, may be tempted to have a go; in these circumstances the operation may well become a very big deal indeed in some cases. The answer to this problem clearly lies in the development of regional specialist centres.



Dr Thomas Stuttford: "Wasn't I being arrogant in not having my own PSA assessed?"

The killer that we neglected

Doctors at the Institute of Cancer Research, which works alongside the Royal Marsden Hospital, estimate that unless new treatments are found the number of deaths from prostate cancer in the UK will rise from the present 10,000 a year to 20,000 a year within a generation.

Professor Colin Cooper of the Institute said: "Prostate cancer has been neglected. Often it is perceived as the disease of old men who do not have long to live, so it has not been attacked with the same urgency as, for instance, cancer of the breast or cervix." Cancer of the prostate can strike a man in his forties, although this is rare; but even a patient of 60 or 70 might have expected to live for another 15 or 20 years.

The symptoms of the benign enlargement of the prostate which is an inevitable part of ageing are well known: but these same symptoms, usually to a lesser extent, also cause suspicion of cancer of the prostate.

When discussing urinary tract symptoms doctors always ask their patients three salient questions. Do you get up at night to pass water? Is your urinary flow slow? Are you in any way bothered by bladder function? Further questions often reveal that the patient may have intermittent urination, that their flow is very slow and they can't dawdle on the way to the loo.

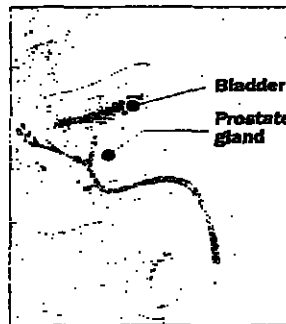
Patients who wait for these symptoms before they have a PSA test (see left) may be waiting too long. Neither my friend George nor I had much in the way of symptoms.

Rectal examinations reveal only 40 per cent of cases of cancer of the prostate. Even high-tech ultrasound misses 25 per cent, and the PSA test's problems are well known. The standard regular testing should, in my opinion (but not that of all professionals), be a combination of all three techniques. In my case not only was I virtually symptom free but physical examination failed to reveal any tumour.

If it hadn't been for the good George coming to my rescue, and the PSA test, the two tumours in my prostate would have remained undetected until the spread of the disease had made the symptoms unmistakable. Once the cancer has ceased to be local loss of weight, tiredness, and aches and pains in the bones and joints are the obvious symptoms. By this time treatment options have narrowed.

As it is, post-operative examination of my prostate and its adjacent tissues show there is a very good chance I will live my allotted span.

When cancer of the prostate is detected what is the treatment of choice? There are still advocates of "watchful waiting", a euphemism for doing nothing until there is evidence of spread. Thereafter the symptoms can be dealt with as they arise. The Institute of Cancer Research, in its booklet *The Male Cancers — A Hidden Problem*, says that this results in seven out of ten patients



eventually dying from the disease. In contrast, more than eight out of ten patients in whom the tumour is detected early are alive and well ten years later. It is of course impossible to say how many would have lived anyway.

Early cancer of the prostate can be treated with surgery, radical prostatectomy, or radical radiotherapy. I favoured surgery because I like to think that my body is now rid of its malignant cells, whereas these may often be detected by biopsy after radiation.

Recently researchers at the Institute have introduced "conformal" radiation in which the radiating beams are shaped to the outline of a specific tumour so that a larger dose can be applied. It is hoped that this and similar advances, together with earlier diagnosis, will help to reverse the increasing death rate from this cancer.

EARLIER this year a 60-year-old man was diagnosed as suffering from early cancer of the prostate. The patient had a successful operation after which the surgeon suggested that if he had a brother he, too, should be tested. "I've only one and he's just 47," the patient replied. Advised that middle age was no protection, his brother was tested and found to have a raised PSA (see above). The diagnosis was confirmed, he was scanned and was ready for surgery just in time to take over the fraternal bed.

Both my father's brothers died in their early 60s from prostate surgery and my

Investigating the genetic link

father, too, died of prostatic disease at the age of 80. There is a genetic link in cancer of the prostate. The Prostate Cancer Charitable Trust is giving the Institute of Cancer Research \$300,000 over the next three years to investigate it.

There are probably two types of prostatic cancer-carrying genes. High risk genes, such as those which can lead to several cases of breast cancer in the same family,

and lower penetrative genes, which carry a lesser likelihood of causing trouble.

Cancer is usually a disease of late middle or old age. As well as cancer of the prostate running in families, it has other characteristic epidemiological features. The typical patient is an elderly, urban man living in a highly developed Western country who always ate well, but didn't eat up his green vegetables or have fruit, started his sex life early and later had many sexual partners.

● The Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Cancer Hospital, 17a Onslow Gardens, London SW7 3AL. 0171-878 3810

Ending the taboo

THIRTY years ago, doctors advocating mammography and cervical screening had an uphill task to convince colleagues of the need for these services, and to persuade people to discuss the subjects openly. After he had testicular cancer, the jockey Bob Champion encouraged other men to talk freely about the condition.

Prostatic cancer, on the other hand, is still not discussed. It is potentially lethal. The prostate is a gland which surrounds the urethra, lies at the bottom of the pelvis between the root of the penis and the anus. This makes it an unlikely subject of polite conversation. The gland secretes semen, and the PSA which doctors so diligently measure is the enzyme which liquefies this semen. Little wonder that research into the prostate is not a favourite object of charity.

Because of the variable prognosis of cancer of the prostate, some patients will live for 20 years even without surgery or irradiation. But this does little to help them in the eyes of their bank managers, insurance companies or colleagues.

Not only is cancer of the prostate seldom talked about and its charities rarely contributed to; it is also the subject of misunderstanding and, in many cases, unnecessary dread.

In the best hands, radical prostatic surgery causes urinary incontinence in less than 4 per cent of cases. Overall, this complication occurs in 10 to 20 per cent of those operated on. Since the introduction of new techniques, anal incontinence is now so rare as not to be a concern.

Of those men who have had surgery, half can resume some sort of sexual activity.

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CHANGING TIMES

Defend our Parliament from Blair

Robert Cranborne tells Tories to resist a latter-day Lloyd George

If we believe in the importance of the nation state, we should begin to think of ways to reinvigorate Parliament. In order to clarify once again the chain through which the electorate gives the authority to govern, Tony Blair has not made our task any easier. In opposition he exploited a few unsavoury incidents to demean the whole standing of Parliamentary politics. In government, his rhetoric asserts that under our present constitution the Government is not sufficiently accountable — or close enough — to the people.

Funnily enough, I rather agree with him about that. The communications revolution, the power of the papers and people's laudably part-time interest in politics have made the institutions of government seem slow to react. It is also true that the very dominance of Westminster and Whitehall is self-defeating.

However, Mr Blair is seeking to build institutions that will diminish Parliament. He is seeking, too, to replace the existing chain of authority with a new chain, in which the ultimate voice lies not on the floor of the House of Commons, but behind the closed doors of Downing Street. When he talks of accountability, we should look for the counting house and who controls it.

For what is he actually doing? He is establishing a parliament in Edinburgh and, possibly, an assembly in Wales. The creation of a Scottish Parliament unequivocally withdraws authority from Westminster and breaks the chain of authority. But it will do more. It is bound to challenge Westminster — and it will look for allies, most obviously those who dream of a Europe of the regions. For if each region of our country were to forge direct and increasingly powerful links with Brussels, then that would enable the Commission to bypass Westminster and so weaken the accountability Mr Blair says he is keen to promote.

Mr Blair also talks about reforming Parliament. Again, what is he actually doing? First, he is making authoritarian use of pre-legislative referendums to intimidate Parliament and undermine its independent power of judgment. This is a new phenomenon in Britain — though the pages of the 20th century are littered with discreditable and disturbing parallels.

I am duly conscious of the result of the election in May. It is clear that Scotland wills its parliament and will have it. But I do not believe that a sovereign parliament should be constrained in every detail of its judgment by ad hoc pre-legislative referendums. And, if we are to have more referendums, then I would ask that proper ground rules should be laid out and legislated for in Parliament. These would exclude the kind of one-sided publicity we saw in the referendums last month.

Secondly, Mr Blair plans to remove the only truly independent element left in Parliament, the hereditary peerage, without telling us what stage two of his reform of the Upper House would look like. Just as in 1911 when it suited Lloyd

George, so it would suit Mr Blair to let the promise of stage two hang in the air for another 80-odd years. Since an independent Parliament is an inconvenience for Mr Blair, he finds us Lords inconvenient. But he must be confronted with a question, to be repeated and repeated, not in the interests of a hereditary peerage, but in the interests of Parliament. "If you do away with half the House of Lords, what will you have in its place?"

Thirdly, he is introducing proportional representation step by step. For the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, for Europe. Perhaps, even for local councils. He is toying with a referendum for PR for Westminster itself, the prospect that truly excites the imagination of Mr Ashdown, more than an hour's chat in the Cabinet Room. Whether history would show Mr Ashdown to have been an aspirant coalition Foreign Secretary — imagine his forceful negotiations in Brussels — or merely the last of the 20th century's useful idiots, I hope we shall never know. For Mr Blair seems to be in particular attracted by the Party, or Alternative, List system. I am not at all surprised.

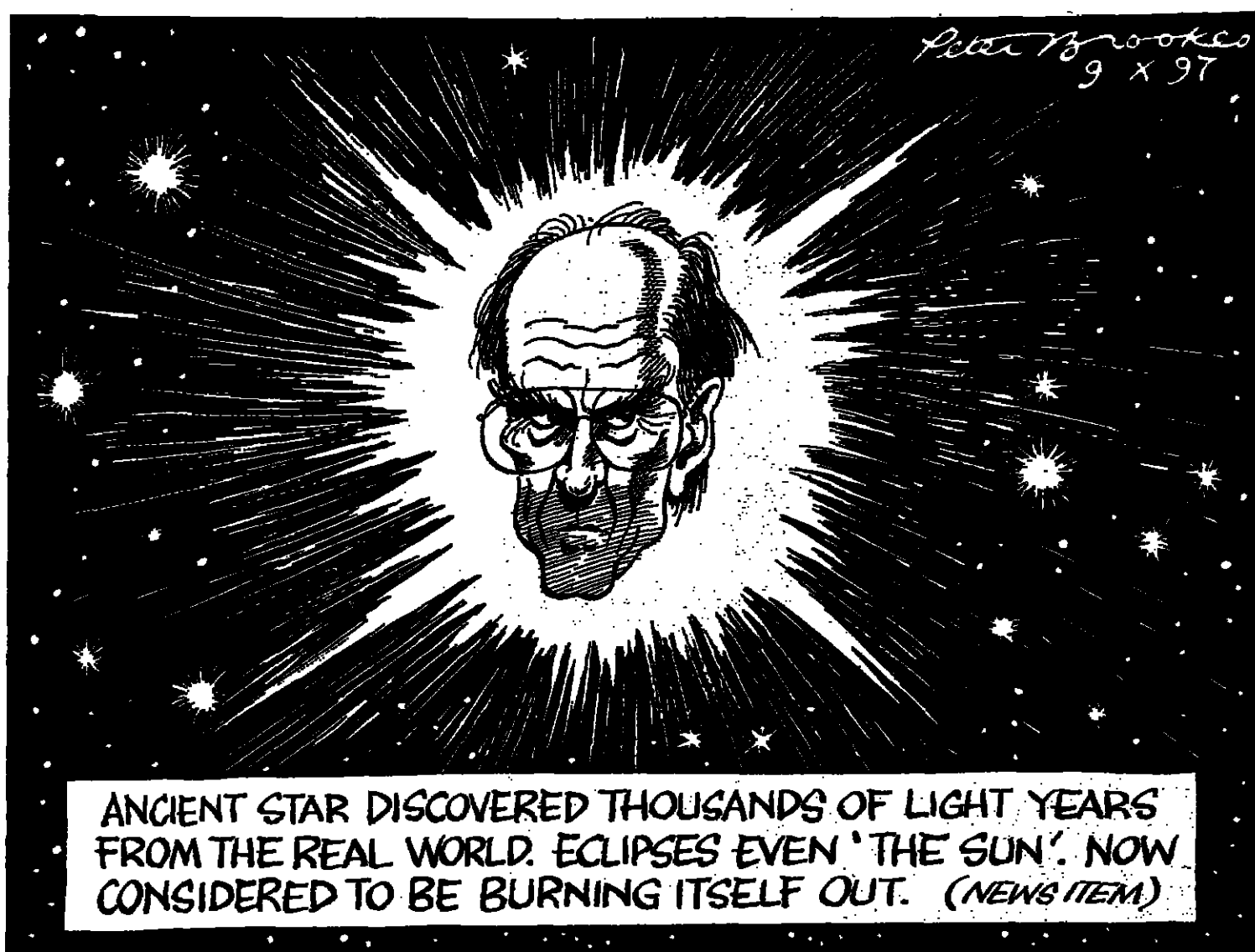
The Party List system is, of all the PR systems, the one that places the greatest degree of power in the hands of the party apparatus and removes the greatest degree of independence from MPs. Again, since Mr Blair seems to find Parliament inconvenient, that would suit him very well. It would enable him to forge a centre grouping, independent of Parliament and of the constituencies, which would make that old coalition master Lloyd George green with envy in his grave.

PR on this model would take the choice of government away from the people and put it in the hands of party secretaries. I cannot say in smoke-filled rooms, for these are men who are pure of heart and politically correct — but far, far removed from the eyes or the reach of the people. Once again I ask — where is the true accountability there?

A great political party reveals its greatness, not in victory, but in defeat. From now on, we have to prove our greatness as a party. For we have a great challenge before us — the greatest for many years. But I cannot see a party in the country other than the Conservative Party with the traditions and the beliefs to undertake this task.

We did it in 1922, when we defeated Mr Blair's hero Lloyd George's attempt to govern after emasculating Parliament. Let us hope that a future 1967 Committee will be as effective as the 1922 Committee has been so far. Then Mr Blair's flirtation with coalition and his quest for a "new politics", dominated by his personality and his narrow circle, may end, not in the breaking of the Conservative Party, but in the breaking of his own, just as Lloyd George broke his.

Lord Cranborne is Conservative MP for the Lords. The above is extracted from this evening's *Politica* lecture at the Clifton Hotel, Blackpool.



Young man in no hurry

Hague is tough and could build a formidable team — don't underrate him

The best rule in political forecasting is that the next election, when it is still four years away, can never be far from an even bet. No doubt it looks at present that Labour is certain to win the next election: it is not Events, personalities, the economic cycle and public rule could all move against the Government. The Conservative conference expressed its anger yesterday. In a couple of years they could well have become an effective Opposition. The history of elections in the 20th century shows no close correlation between the result of one election and that of the next.

Several factors could swing in favour of the Conservatives. The first is the Labour Party itself. Tony Blair has imposed a radical change of policy which is contrary to the party's traditions. Roy Hattersley, who used to be regarded as right wing, has not changed his views, but the leadership has moved the party so far that he is now on the left wing. So long as new Labour is successful, this will not threaten the Prime Minister's position. But if the tide of popularity turns, for whatever reason, there will be many who will blame Tony Blair for having betrayed his party's principles. I myself admire Tony Blair and what he is doing, but I come from a family which supported Charles I, Lord North — perhaps mistakenly — the great Lord Salisbury and Baroness Thatcher. There may be something odd about a Labour leader whom I admire and Roy Hattersley opposes.

The personalities of the Labour leadership seem quite likely to become discordant, particularly under pressure. If Tony Blair were not there to keep the choir singing in unison, with Peter Mandelson as his assistant, the glee club of Brown, Cook and Prescott would probably fall out of tune. Certainly none of those three could be expected to give way to the pretensions of the others. A party which has changed its basic philosophy, and in personal terms is a patchwork of old and new, may sail ahead in fair weather but capsize in a storm. That happens in politics.

By an enormous margin, the country now prefers Tony Blair to William Hague. In my view Mr Blair is a very superior performer "a class act": he makes Hague look raw and inexperienced, which he is. But I think Mr Hague is being underrated. He reminds me in some ways of the young Ted Heath: he too was rather callow; he did have more experience

as a politician than Hague; he was nothing like as good a speaker, though he has become an excellent speaker in his old age. What he has in common with Hague is that neither has an easygoing personality. The public does not see them as cosy, though I think the young Hague is better liked than the young Heath.

I remember discussing the Heath-Maudslaw leadership election of 1965 with Rab Butler. He said: "What you mean is that Reggie is a friendly, lazy old dog who likes to lie in front of the fire, but Ted is a snappy little terrier who will bark at you, but will run after a rabbit." After

Harold Wilson's 1966 election victory, many people wrote off Heath, but he won in 1970. Hague seems to me to be tough-minded, energetic, modern, probably rather ruthless, like one of the young brigadiers of the Second World War. Such men are not widely loved, but they get more business done than gentler souls. Blair may be more the electorate's cup of tea, but the next election will not be a tea party.

There is another resemblance to Heath's position after 1966. He had Alec Douglas-Home as his Shadow Foreign Secretary. Home was always weak on domestic policy, had not lasted long as Prime Minister and had lost the 1964 election. But the nation liked and trusted him. When John Major was Prime Minister I was a hostile critic, as I had been of Home when he was Prime Minister. Yet the nation likes and trusts Major, whether or not he was a good Prime Minister. He has promised in Blackpool to give total support to Hague, whom he has always admired. He could best help by becoming, at the right moment, the Shadow Foreign Secretary — he would have authority, experience and negotiating skill. John Major may not have been a Tory asset at the last election, but he certainly is now.

Blair will be hard for Hague to match, though he is his equal as a Parliamentary debater. By the next election, if he can build the strongest team, Hague could have John Major, Michael Portillo and possibly Chris

Patten in the Shadow Cabinet. I'm not sure that Patten wants to come back, so that must be doubtful. John Redwood is proving a natural Opposition politician — the best in the Shadow Cabinet. Peter Lilley remains the most thoughtful of political intellectuals. Measuring Shadow ministers against Cabinet ministers, Hague potentially has quite an impressive team.

Like all party leaders, Hague has to deal with the internal opposition. Kenneth Clarke is formidable and popular, but too far to the left on tax and Europe for the Conservative Party. Alan Clark and Norman Tebbit are 'Dad's Army': there is nothing to fear from them. This storm of disloyalty and counter-disloyalty which really originated with Michael Heseltine and the assassination of Margaret Thatcher has largely blown itself out.

Tony Blair's policy in opposition was never to give the Conservatives an issue around which they could rally. Peter Mandelson was brilliant in orchestrating these tactics. They do not work in government. All governments have to make choices which provide opportunities for opposition. There are already two such policies: the health service and the European single currency. If Labour does not find more money for the NHS, which can come only from taxation or private sources, the NHS may break down, at least in the worst areas. The Government has to make a choice about the single currency and whatever it decides will expose it to criticism. This week's *Financial Times* survey suggests that 67.5 per cent of the electorate opposes merging the pound into a single currency, and only 15 per cent is in favour. Blair will not want to give the Conservatives an issue on which they have so large a lead in England.

Apart from the issues which arise from the Government, there are others which the Conservatives can create for themselves. Gordon Brown will reform some taxes, as all good Chancellors do. Oddly, Kenneth Clarke brusquely refused to reform capital gains tax, even though it could

have increased revenue and John Major wanted it. Brown will take advantage of his blunder. But there are larger tax reforms which Labour is unlikely to introduce. The year 2000 is an election year in the United States. The Republican candidate, Steve Forbes will again introduce his proposal to charge a flat rate of income tax into the primaries; as the American Inland Revenue Service is in deep administrative confusion, that may well become a big election issue. The Conservatives will be examining the flat tax for Britain: tax simplification has a political appeal.

The greatest risk to the Labour Party comes from the business cycle. This also has a parallel in 20th-century electoral history. On May 31, 1929, Labour won the general election; Ramsay MacDonald's speeches "might all have been made by Baldwin". On September 29, the Wall Street panic began; the subsequent world depression destroyed the Labour Government. One does not need to assume a world depression now: the British trade cycle is already a mature one. The boom is not likely to last through to the next election. Rising unemployment and rising bankruptcies are rather more probable; they would put pressure on the Government. Of course, governments can win elections during a recession; Major did that in 1992. But it is never easy to do so.

It is not to say that the Conservatives should be made favourites to win the next election, merely that there are circumstances in which they might. It was their good fortune after the comparable defeat of 1945 to have Churchill, with the authority of a war-winner, as leader. Hague, who is young and inexperienced, will have to make his own authority, which will be difficult to do. Yet it is far too early to write him off.

Hague would not have become leader of his party at the age of 36 if he were not an exceptional young politician. He has a good temperament for Opposition. He may sometimes aim his blows at the wrong target, but he will hit hard. He is an excellent speaker; he made a good speech on Tuesday, and will probably make another tomorrow. I can remember the Tories in 1946; even under Churchill they were in despair. I still expect Tony Blair to win the next election, but I do not see that the Tories have any reason to despair now.

Who are the true Brits?

Even Asians cheer
Rangers now, says
Magnus Linklater

Lord Tebbit's Blackpool speech on history and the British identity was a gift to William Hague. It allowed him at a stroke to disown the "dinosaurs" right wing of his party, and to place New Toryism firmly on the side of a modern, multi-cultural Britain. The argument itself, however, is left lingering in the air, bearing with it a faintly sulphurous odour. What Lord Tebbit was exposing is a theme that has smouldered beneath the surface of British life ever since Enoch Powell's Birmingham speech of 1968, where he described a nation "heaping up its own funeral pyre" by allowing foreign dependents into Britain.

Lord Tebbit, thirty years later, echoed it by giving a warning that unless ethnic minorities are taught to absorb British culture and history, the United Kingdom will go the same way as Yugoslavia. Both speeches were inflammatory. Both defy a native tradition of tolerance.

The Tebbit point challenges, head on, a generation of education policy. "Multiculturalism is divisive," he said. "One cannot uphold two sets of ethics, or be loyal to two nations... Youngsters born here should be taught that British history is their history."

This is immensely dangerous territory, not least because in countries where national standards are rigidly enforced, trouble tends to breed rather than the reverse. Lord Tebbit would presumably favour the French approach, where a strong sense of national identity led head teachers to forbid Muslim girls from wearing the Islamic veil. The result, far from promoting conformity, was a political and educational crisis which one commentator, Gilles Kepel, compared to the Dreyfus affair, and which still convulses French society.

In his recently published book, *Allah in the West*, Kepel argues that the British system, based on a model of communal politics which grew up during the Raj, has so far headed off confrontation. Even if one accepts the Tebbit view, one is left with the question: what does he mean by "British" history? If, as I suspect, he means English history, then what he is arguing for is a far narrower version of our island story than most historians would be prepared to accept today. He, like me, was probably brought up on the dates of the English kings and queens, the Magna Carta, Simon de Montfort, the Battle of Bosworth and the wives of Henry VIII — the building blocks of schoolboy history for as long as anyone educated in the public school system can remember.

As a Scot, prepared for British exams, I learnt nothing of my native history. I was ignorant of the richness of Celtic culture, the complexities of Irish nationalism, or the religious wars of the 17th century. It gave me a distinctly lopsided view of this United Kingdom, and told me little about the Union of the Crowns, or the great debates which surged around the Act of Union — all highly relevant today. I resented it, not just from a sense of injured pride, but because it was so cramped and inadequate. And it persists: recently I asked the headmaster of a leading Scottish public school whether he taught Scottish history. "Certainly not," he assured me. "We teach British history to A-Level standards." So much for balance.

My Scottish-educated friends have no such difficulty. Most of them, brought up in the state system, learnt Scottish history within a British context. That trend has, if anything, increased. It has given them a strong sense of their own identity, but I would defy Lord Tebbit to suggest that it is nudging them towards blood-soaked Balkanisation. On the contrary, two cultures have sat easily with each other, a perfect contradiction of his basic thesis. Two different forms of education, two legal systems, two distinct cultures, but still, 300 years on, one United Kingdom. The strong majority for devolution last month was not, let us remember, a vote for separation, but a vote to stay within the UK.

A firm but mutually courteous process of compromise was the way Paul Barker described the British attitude to religious differences in *The Times* recently. For Judaism that has meant an easy, almost effortless integration. For Muslims it has involved maintaining, even emphasising, cultural distinctions. Forcing them now to conform to the educational traditions of a nation which is itself in the process of rapid change, would be an instant recipe for disaster.

And anyway, how do you legislate for the hybrid state of our own society, itself a challenge to stereotypes? Not long ago, at a Rangers-Celtic match, a horde of blood-curdling but largely peaceful sectarianism, I found myself queuing behind a group of chanting fans clad from top to toe in Rangers blue. They were singing the verse of a familiar terrace song which includes some awful reference to former battles whose participants were "up to our knees in Fenian blood". The fans were all wearing turbans, and when I overtook them I saw they were displaying a badge proclaiming: "Asians for Rangers." They were having a great time.

No entry

THIS lot does not seem to get on any better than the last lot. An astonishing incident sheds a bright light on relations between Tony Blair and David Blunkett. It began when Blunkett received a memo from the Prime Minister. The contents, I understand, did not make happy reading for the Education Secretary.

Blunkett, in an agitated condition, telephoned No 10 and demanded to discuss the memo with Blair.

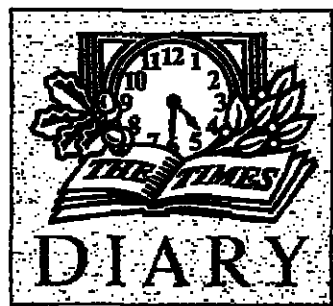
"Can't be done," harrumphed No 10. "The PM is meeting David Trimble and can't be disturbed."

Blunkett was not to be deflected, telling officials: "Get the car, we're going to Downing Street."

Surprised at Blunkett's insubordination, a prime ministerial aide rang Blunkett on his mobile phone and presented him with a stark choice: "There are camera crews waiting to film Trimble outside No 10. If you want to be filmed being turned away by the policeman, then so be it."

Unfortunately, the minister's car had already swept round Parliament Square and was bearing down on Downing Street. Uh, oh.

As telephones crackled around Whitehall, a solution was brokered. Blunkett would enter No 11 as if meeting the Chancellor, who was not in. He would loiter there on his own for 15 minutes then get back in his car and leave. And nobody would ever speak of how Yes Minister became reality. Until now of course. By the way, I am assured that relations are now "entirely amicable".



● IS Ken Clarke taking this man of the people thing a bit far? Back in London yesterday, he took the Underground, travelling west on the Circle Line. Informally attired and clutching a battered briefcase, he sat staring glumly at the floor. Just as well really — his neighbour was engrossed in a newspaper article headed, "Ken still wants to be PM".

Banging on

SUPPER was rather spoiled for Conservatives on Tuesday evening when a "bomb" went off. Guesses including Michael Portillo, Gillian Shephard, George Young and Michael Howard, were chomping away at the Riverhouse Restaurant, Blackpool, when a large bang silenced proceedings.

And what was this dangerous device blown up by police? A set of hand-made glass wine coasters destroyed with zealous efficiency in geranium beds in the joint's garden. The bang had prompted a quivering voice from Michael Howard's party to exclaim: "It sounds like Ted Heath's bath salts."

A contrite Bill Scott, proprietor, explains: "We had done a favour for a local glass-making company which thought it would be nice to repay us with a gift. But wrapped in a brown-paper package, it looked very suspicious."

● AS if sending chocolates had not landed Ann Widdecombe, former Home Office minister, in enough trouble, she recently dispatched a box to Michael Portillo and party workers at his old constituency, Enfield Southgate. As at Blackpool, this rather alarmed the bomb squad. "Luckily they were not blown up," munches a witness. "They were jolly good."

Cheers, Teddy

IT promises to be a distinctly gloomy club. And thankfully it is rather short of potential members: the Conservative Teetotal Club. It is the brainchild of Sir Teddy Tay-



IN a bold claim, the couturier behind the risqué number sported by Fionn Jenkins, above left, compared her figure to Marilyn Monroe's. But whereas Marilyn was measured as a voluptuous size 16, Mr Hague's fiancée, I am reliably informed, is a svelte 14.

lor, MP, who signed a solemn pledge to abstain when he was just six years old. And he has.

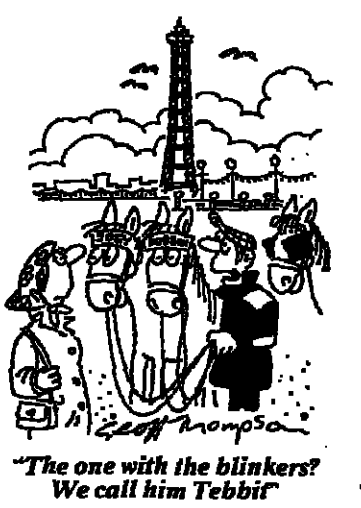
"I want more party members to join under the banner of sobriety," he says earnestly. "A great many social problems stem from alcohol." So, what other MPs are teetotal? "Er, no one that I can think of."

● CAVORTING naked on celluloid is clearly too much for Nineties sensibilities. Casting has begun for a sequel to the less-than-



frigid 9½ Weeks. A Hollywood studio opened its doors on Tuesday, expecting over 5,000 energetic actresses to queue to audition. But memories of the original version, which saw Kim Basinger attempting some quite extraordinary manoeuvres with an ice cube, were simply too much: only 20 turned up. "We did warn that the script contained naked scenes," says the studio. "I think that put them off."

JASPER GERARD





ENTER THE BARBARIANS

Oxford and Cambridge must change to survive

It is, in the words of one Oxford graduate, a funny old world. The common rooms of Oxford and Cambridge are stuffed with centre-left sympathisers. The atmosphere in both cities immediately after Tony Blair's triumph was akin to post-liberation Paris. The mood in the quadrangles is now different. The air is closer to that of Prague in the late 1940s: the Germans may have gone but the character of the Red Army has become clearer. This Government has little affection for Oxbridge and appears determined to alter the present funding formula. Exempt the Philistines. Enter the barbarians.

The apocalyptic attacks launched by the two Vice Chancellors reflect the belated realisation that Labour isn't joking. Gordon Brown used his party conference speech to condemn the statistic that half of Oxbridge students come from the independent sector. David Blunkett might keep the college fee but on the condition that the number of state school students increases. Tessa Blackstone, the Minister for Higher Education, is shamelessly fanatical on the subject. This triple alliance is a powerful combination. A mere three members of the current cabinet attended either university. An old-boy network rarely functions well without old boys.

The Government's decision to scrutinise the college fee is not without legitimacy. A central tenet of the Dearing report was that those who most directly benefit from higher education should share more of its costs. That is a proper principle. The Oxbridge exception does not fit easily with that dictum. The most rational route out of this dilemma would see the college fee abolished but additional "top-up" tuition fees introduced as an alternative. That would transfer this unusual expenditure from the taxpayer to the student. However, the Department for Education is determined to exclude that option. Mr Blunkett regards top-up fees as a device that would entrench not erode elitism. Without this arrangement the abolition of

erosion of the college fee would be little short of sadistic. Dr Peter North's warning that the Government might "destroy the competitive position" of the two universities should be heeded. Oxford and Cambridge should not accept quotas as the price of retaining state funding. They would be better off as entirely private institutions. That is a prospect that is worth contemplation.

The admissions procedures at each university is far from perfect. However, it is a fact — an unfortunate one perhaps but a fact all the same — that independent schools and, especially, grammar schools, produce the lion's share of those students who achieve at least three "A" grades at A level. To that extent they are arguably under-represented at Oxbridge. There have also been extensive efforts to attract candidates from the state sector. This drive has not always been supported by some of the schools concerned. Applications, not admissions, remain the core of this challenge.

Oxbridge must change to ensure its survival. The bureaucratic arrangements in both places are byzantine. A combination of autonomous colleges and faculties have created a collection of committees largely incapable of coherence or change. College accounts are shrouded in a secrecy that makes Cuba appear a model of open government by comparison. The North Commission acknowledged Oxford's difficulties but has not been fully implemented.

Neither Oxford nor Cambridge can afford to remain in the 19th century. That in turn will require a new relationship between the colleges and the centre. Oxbridge should retain the college fee or be allowed top-up tuition fees as a substitute. The ancient universities should be shielded from a Minister for Higher Education who does not choose to distinguish between excellence and elitism. Neither establishment, though, can ignore the theme of modernisation now so associated with another Oxford graduate.

RACE TO BE MODERN

Hague is right, but Tebbit cannot be ignored

Ever since Neil Kinnock rounded on Militant Tendency in 1985, Labour leaders have understood the popular grins they can win from fighting their own extremists. Tony Blair has made a career of it. William Hague is now following suit. The Tory leader's criticisms of Lord Tebbit — who attacked the spread of multiculturalism — will do wonders for his image among the majority of voters. But he cannot quite ignore the shrinking constituency to whom Lord Tebbit's remarks were addressed.

Britain has changed hugely in the past decade, a change of which Lord Tebbit seems unaware. Racism is far less prevalent now. Visitors from America to Britain are amazed and impressed to see the ease with which young blacks, Asians and whites mingle, particularly in cities. Schools preach tolerance above all else, and young people, on the whole, agree that racism is one of the most pernicious social sins. Though racial harassment is not unknown, Britain is still a model for peaceful race relations compared with the US, France, Italy and Germany.

Lord Tebbit's views are indeed "outdated", as Mr Hague claimed yesterday. Multiculturalism is not damaging to the fabric of the nation; indeed it is Britain's very diversity that makes its modern urban culture so vibrant. Of course children should learn British history in school. But they should also learn French history, German history and, if they want, Indian or Jamaican history. These are not mutually exclusive. Lord Tebbit's "cricket test" involves people choosing between nationalities. This is not the case with history. Nor is it the case with identity. British Asians may feel both British and Asian, and that is

perfectly healthy. As Munish Chopra, the 15-year-old who addressed the conference on the first day, pointed out, the values that he has inherited from his Asian parents are the very values of hard work and integrity that the Conservative Party professes to honour.

Lord Tebbit's chill warnings of Britain turning into a Yugoslavia are more than mischievous: they are dangerous. To attempt to stir up racial hatred is about the most irresponsible course of action that a politician can follow. So Mr Hague was right to slap him down and to emphasise that the Tory party was going to be inclusive.

The Conservative leader understands the importance of bringing his party up to date with the social and cultural changes that have taken place in Britain. In doing so, however, he must remain aware of the sensitivities of his older supporters. Their fear of blacks and Asians stems from an insecurity about what it means these days to be British. The way to assuage their anxiety is not to play on their insecurities, as Lord Tebbit has done, but to forge a modern British identity that restores their national pride. Mr Blair tried to do so last week; Mr Hague can add to it tomorrow.

The Conservative leader has already tried to signal his modernity: the much-derided baseball cap, trip to the Notting Hill carnival and message of support to the Gay Pride march have been an attempt to tell the voters that his party is no longer stuck in the 1950s. Jumping four decades in as many months, though, has been a painful lurch for many of his activists. The Tory party must bring itself up to date, but if its leader does not want Lord Tebbit's support to rise, he may have to make some of his moves a little more gentle.

THE THIRTEENTH LABOUR

Can Hercules take on Walt Disney and live?

Tomorrow *Hercules* will arrive at Leicester Square and simultaneously at cinemas around the United Kingdom. This is a feat of ubiquity which not even that hero has performed in his myth until now. On our Arts pages today Geoff Brown is amused by this Disneyfication of an old story. And *Hercules* is as usual creating uproar wherever he goes. In America, where it has been on screen since July, *Hercules* looks like being Disney's least successful animated feature since *The Little Mermaid* in 1989. It is still predicted to gross \$100 million at the domestic box office and \$300 million worldwide.

Nevertheless, this film is setting searching questions for entertainment analysts. Are teenagers growing too sophisticated for animated cartoons? Have rocketing budgets, rising expectations and mounting competition damaged the summer blockbuster trade? Is the marketing operation that now goes with such films killing the goose that lays the golden eggs? The *Hercules* campaign has licensed 100 manufacturers to market 6,000 products, from backpacks to underwear and action heroes to handbags (a variant on the hero's club). In the film *Hercules* makes self-referential jokes about merchandising wars by strapping on Air Herc sandals, drinking a Hercules and signing a Grecian Express credit card. When a film is made for such calculating commercialism, it may lose the plot. Meanwhile textual rather than commercial critics complain that *Hercules* has got

the story all wrong. In the film, Hercules first kills the Minotaur and then Medusa. But, as some schoolchildren still know, it was Theseus who killed the Minotaur, and Perseus (great-great-uncle of Hercules) who killed Medusa. Disney gives Hercules a warm, loving relationship with his mother Hera. Whereas myth tells of his jealous stepmother Hera sending two snakes to kill the infant Hercules in his cradle. He strangled them. The Greeks are so angry that for Greece the film has been renamed *Beyond the Myth of Hercules*.

But such textual pedantry is to misinterpret both Hercules and Disney. Hercules attracted the popular fancy. He has always attracted the myths of less popular heroes. And the Walt Disney dream factory up Do-py Drive has always softened, sanitised and sentimentalised classics. Would Disney cut the episode of Hercules killing his wife and children in a fit of madness? That is as simple a question to answer as whether Hercules would guzzle a sausage or swirl a goblet of wine or just after a pretty girl.

The old stories are the best. Some of the children may go on to read *The Jungle Book*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and other deeper dramas behind the two-dimensional cartoons. But Hercules has survived 30 centuries of distortion and mythmaking. He was even adopted as an exemplar of fortitude by the Stoics, to the neglect of his other qualities. So he can surely survive the ordeal of being turned into a Hollywood star.

Future funding of NHS 'monopoly'

From the Director of the Health and Welfare Unit, Institute of Economic Affairs

Sir, The BMA's report on NHS funding (details, later editions, October 8) raised the possibility of charging patients for visiting their GP. To introduce charges while the NHS remains a public-sector monopoly would be to add insult to injury. Public policy should aim to combine universal access with empowerment of consumers through competition.

Charges are favoured by a minority (so far) of doctors, primarily as a discipline on demanding patients. The discussion of charges also rests on the assumption that the main problem of the NHS is a shortage of finance, whereas it also provides bad service because it is a monopoly.

The empowerment of consumers, as suggested in the Institute of Economic Affairs report, *How to Pay for Healthcare*, published on June 23, will require the introduction of private insurance and competition between hospitals. Best practice in America suggests that the ideal model is "managed competition", under which patients form groups for the purpose of purchasing insurance.

In America the lead is taken by employers. In Britain group purchasing could be the responsibility of health authorities. Everyone, rich and poor alike, would have the standard package financed from general taxes and individuals would have the option of paying more for additional services.

Such a scheme would allow the Government to confine itself to what is good at, maintaining universal access.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GREEN, Director,
Health and Welfare Unit, IEA,
2 Lord North Street, SW1,
October 8.

From Dr Kenneth G. Williams

Sir, Separation of the hotel and medical care components in healthcare is not merely desirable, it is essential. An enforced stay in hospital means being fed for nothing, although in some circumstances money is taken away by charges in benefit.

A charge would not erode the basic principle of free medical care for all. The level could be set by ability to pay. And patients could enjoy small luxuries for a charge, varying their visitors' gifts of flowers or grapes.

Yours sincerely,
K. G. WILLIAMS,
Flat 24, Nuffield Lodge,
22 Shepherd's Hill, Highgate, N6,
October 8.

Equal partners?

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, In view of the European Court of Justice's decision last year to reject equal treatment of men and women on the issue of bus passes for older people (report, July 12, 1996), against their own Advocate-General's advice, it might be premature for groups supporting Lisa Grant (report, "Lesbian couple win equal rights to company perks", October 1) to assume their case was already won.

The bus-pass case fell at the last hurdle, on the court holding that these passes could not be considered as within "social security" in relation to the principle of equal treatment in social security; so the claim that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation is comprehended within "sex discrimination" in relation to the principle of equal pay (and equal job benefits) for "men and women" might fall in the same way.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LINDSAY
(Legal Adviser, Parity —
Equal Rights for Men and Women),
36 Orchard Coombe,
Winchchurch Hill, Reading, Berkshire,
October 2.

From Mr Christopher Miles Coope

Sir, Who is my "partner"? Must we continue to assume that a partner must be a person to whom one is sexually attracted, or with whom one has sexual relations of one sort or another?

Non-sexual friendships can be deeper and longer lasting than many sexual ones. Would it not be inequitable if such friendships were denied legal recognition just because no one has a moral objection to them.

And why indeed should we be confined to one partner at a time?

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER MILES COOPE,
University of Leeds,
School of Philosophy,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
October 2.

Outsiders and others

From Mr Michael Wyldbore-Smith

Sir, Could someone please enlighten me. By what name are the residents of Devon and Cornwall known, when they themselves go on holiday elsewhere (letters, September 22 and 26, October 4)?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WYLDBORE-SMITH,
Moat Cottage,
Berkswell,
Coventry, West Midlands.
michael.wyldbore-smith@dtz.co.uk
October 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Appeals on self-assessment deadline

From the Chairman of the National Association of General Commissioners of Income Tax

Sir, There has been much publicity (report, Weekend Money, October 4) about penalties applicable under the new self-assessment system of taxation.

The September 30 deadline was the last date on which 1997 income tax returns could be filed with the Inland Revenue where the Inland Revenue would guarantee to calculate any tax due before January 31, 1998, the next payment date. This latter date is also the deadline by which 1997 returns must be filed with the Inland Revenue to avoid a mandatory late-filing penalty of £100.

If a taxpayer feels he has a reasonable excuse for late filing which the inspector of taxes will not concede, he may appeal to the General Commissioners of Income Tax.

The commissioners are people from the local community appointed by the Lord Chancellor, not chosen because of any great expertise in tax matters, but for the qualities necessary to properly decide issues between the taxpayer and the Inland Revenue. They are essentially lay people with a determination to provide a just and sensible attitude in their decisions on matters brought before them. They are unpaid and completely independent of the Inland Revenue. What a local inspector of taxes may regard as not being a reasonable excuse may be determined by the commissioners as being reasonable.

Proceedings at commissioners' meetings, which are held in private, are informal and the taxpayer does not have to be professionally represented. The easiest way for a taxpayer to appeal is to tell the inspector of taxes that he wishes to do so. The in-

spector will then inform the clerk to the general commissioners, who will arrange a hearing.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER D. FELLOWS
(Chartered accountant),
Chairman,
National Association of General Commissioners of Income Tax,
The Chubb Buildings,
Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
October 4.

From Ms Christie Maher, Director of the Plain English Campaign

Sir, Your report (September 30) about US tax officials being suspended after harassing American taxpayers is very disconcerting in the light of recent changes in the way taxes are collected in Britain.

Elizabeth Filkin, adjudicator for the Inland Revenue, says in her annual report (details, September 18) that 2,500 people complained about the Inland Revenue last year. She expects the figure to rise as people struggle with the self-assessment system. How long will it be before they start to target the most vulnerable of those affected by the system, the way their American counterparts seem to be doing?

When will the Chancellor intervene in this terrible decline in relations between the Inland Revenue and taxpayers? Let him call a halt to the fiasco unfolding now, grant an amnesty and force the Inland Revenue to redesign the form so it can be understood by the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIE MAHER,
Director,
Plain English Campaign,
PO Box 3, New Mills, Derbyshire,
September 30.

Tebbit's speech

From Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron

Sir, As an Asian priest, may I respond to Lord Tebbit's attack in his speech yesterday at Blackpool on Britain's "multiculturalism" (report, October 8), by reminding him that Jesus was a Jew and the early Church in Jerusalem was firmly rooted in Jewish culture.

The New Testament records a major struggle between the Jerusalem Church and those from Gentile cultures who embraced the Christian faith.

Eventually it was resolved that the Gentile Christians were not required to adopt a Jewish culture. Thus the Church became fundamentally multi-

cultural, and universal in its openness to newcomers.

In our own time the Churches in England are breaking out of an exclusively English culture under the influence of those of their members whose cultural roots are in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere. The parallel with Blackpool is close.

All strength to those political leaders who celebrate the fact of our multicultural society, and thereby help us all to work together for the mutual benefits that our diverse cultures can bring in heralding the future.

Yours sincerely,
IVOR SMITH-CAMERON
(Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen),
100 Prince of Wales Drive, SW11,
October 8.

Church security

From the Bishop of Hulme, Chairman of the Council for the Care of Churches

Sir, Your correspondence on church security, following your leading article, "Nothing sacred" (September 30), may have given the mistaken impression that nothing is being done by church bodies to help parishes address the problem.

Quite apart from Lord Lloyd-Webber's splendid initiative of the Open Churches Trust (letter, October 4), this council, together with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, has organised a series of seminars and publications to advise church councils where the potential dangers lie and what the appropriate remedies might be.

Mr William Ruxton (letter, same day) regrets that a central security consultant and central record of thefts has not been established by "the Church of England authorities". The

Council for the Care of Churches believes this would be an over-costly and comparatively ineffective response.

Each parish church is a local responsibility and is best managed locally. The alarm system appropriate for a city-centre building would be wasted in the middle of fields. The job of those of us at the centre is to channel to parishes full and up-to-date expertise and, yes, to encourage grant-givers to provide appropriate help, whether that is to pay church-watchers or to buy particular equipment.

Contrary to current myth, security has been a problem for churches from medieval times, then and now it can best be tackled on the spot, encouraged but not directed by outside help.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HULME,
Chairman,
Council for the Care of Churches,
Fleldon House,
Little College Street, SW1,
October 6.

Cruelty to badger

From the Executive Director of the Countryside Alliance

Sir, Your report, "Dog club official jailed for cruelty to pregnant badger" (October 7), did a disservice to the Fell and Moorland Working Terrier Club, which is affiliated to the Countryside Alliance.

The convicted man has not been a member of the club for three years and is not an official.

The club provides an invaluable service to owners of terriers that become lost underground in the countryside. Our office deals with at least one call a week from distraught

owners seeking help.

All members have to adhere to the strict code of conduct set by the National Working Terrier Federation and approved by the Countryside Alliance when carrying out legitimate pest control at the request of landowners and farmers.

We totally condemn the persecution of protected species such as the badger.

Yours truly,
PETER VOUTE,
Executive Director,
Countryside Alliance,
The Old Town Hall,
367 Kennington Road, SE11,
October 7.

General Berge

From Lord Jellicoe

Sir, I was very glad to read today the obituary of that splendid soldier, fine man and very dear friend, General Georges Berge.

In your fascinating account of the first two Free French missions into occupied France there was one error. Georges Berge did not in fact take part in the second mission, "Josephine B", in which an important power generator near Bordeaux was blown up. However, the success of that mission owed much to the Resistance cell which he had established in South West France following his own mission ("Savanna") two months earlier. Then, in the ten days before being taken off in the submarine *Tigris*, he set up Resistance cells in Paris, Nancy, Bayonne and his home town, Mimizan.

The wartime SAS also owed an inestimable debt to Berge. The highly

trained French squadron which he brought in January 1942 to join David Stirling's original detachment comprised, as Stirling put it "the bravest of the brave". They showed both courage and skill in their raiding operations in the North African desert before their return to the UK when the two French SAS regiments were formed.

David Stirling, who held Berge in the highest esteem, always spoke of him as one of the co-founders of the SAS Regiment. This generous judgment is one which I wholeheartedly endorse.

Yours faithfully,
JELICOE,
Tidcombe Manor,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
October 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Play up, play up — but win the game

From Mr Alex Standish

Sir, As a primary school PE teacher, I disagree with the suggestion by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference that the behaviour of players — and parents — at school sports matches needs regulating, and that matches should elevate fair play above winning (report, October 7).

I attended a school football match recently where a goalkeeper dived to stop a shot on the goal line. The attacking team protested that the ball had crossed the line and much to my surprise the goalkeeper agreed and the referee was persuaded to give the goal.

Putting fair play before winning is precisely what many educationalists want to see as a regular feature of competitive games. But the goalkeeper's opinion could have cost his team the game. Fortunately in this instance it didn't and his side went on to win the game. As for the decision, that is up to the officials, not the players.

At another game, in which my school team was taking part, both teams were told by the referee not to use aggressive tactics. Does anybody know how to tackle in a non-aggressive way?

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race is the culmination of a year's work. The idea that this, or any other competitive sports match, be turned into a friendly event where you help the opposition out is nonsense. Without competitive rivalry teams do not strive for excellence, and ultimately standards are lowered.

Those educationalists who argue that the competitive element of physical education lessons be downplayed have taken a path towards lower standards.

Yours etc,
ALEX STANDISH,
51 Lansdown Place,
Hove, East Sussex,
October 8.

Kings of the river

From Mr J. T. Wakefield

Sir, The photograph of a fish-poled dolphin riding a wave (October 1) is most remarkable and I commend the photographer on his determination to obtain such a picture.

I am reminded of a similar sight I witnessed in an isolated spot in Alaska a few years ago where salmon (ranging from Kings of 40lb and more, Sockeye, Humpies and Silvers of up to 25lb) come to spawn in a very small river which has no full-time outflow into the sea. The river flows only when there is a high tide (usually late evening or during the night) and it is then the salmon run in large numbers.

The salmon congregate in the bay, waiting for the tide (where they are prey to seals and killer whales), and can be seen, ten to twenty fish at a time, riding broadside on in the curling waves.

With the afternoon light shining through the waves the sight is one to be seen to be believed, and to cast a fly into the wave and see a salmon turn and take is just fantastic.

Yours sincerely,
J. T. WAKEFIELD,
2 Garden Court,
Riverside Road, West Moors, Dorset,
October 1.

Authors' brainstorm

From Mr P. H. R. Browning

Sir, In the mid-1980s the Home Office published *The Sentence of the Court*, a guide to the powers of magistrates.

The first edition appeared with a list of errata, which itself included more errata (letters, October 3, September 10 and 17). Among the most enjoyable were:

for "officer" read "offender"

for "necessary" read "unnecessary"

The best, which suggested a radical new sentencing option read:

for "fine" read "fine"

Yours faithfully,
PETER BROWNING,
Oak House, Garmston Lane,
Eaton Constantine,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire,
philip.browning@cablernet.co.uk
October 5.

World wide web

From Dr Stanley Solomons

Sir, Mr Hamish Carmichael (letter, October 7) draws attention to the unusual number of exceptionally large spiders' webs this autumn and asks what it could mean.

Hopefully, it means very bad news for the flies.

Yours sincerely,
S. SOLOMONS,
165 West Heath Road, NW3,
October 7.

From Mr Christopher Ellis

Sir, Mr Carmichael's spiders are simply following the example of the Government — spinning like crazy.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ELLIS,
18 Upper Old Park Lane,
Farnham, Surrey,
October 8.

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9 1997

Brent Walker meets banks on £700m Wm Hill sale

By DOMINIC WALSH

BRENT WALKER, the debt-laden leisure group, will today table proposals for the disposal of the William Hill betting shop chain at a meeting with its banks. A £700 million sale to Nomura, the Japanese bank, is thought to be the favoured option.

Industry sources suggest the company, in conjunction with Close Brothers, its financial adviser, will ask the banks to rubber stamp a sale to Nomura. If the banks accept the proposal, the preferred bidder is expected to be announced on Friday.

None of the parties involved would comment ahead of this afternoon's meeting.

but one source said: "Nomura are convinced they've got it. As long as the banks agree, it's more or less a done deal. Their pockets are certainly deep enough."

A deal with Nomura, which recently unveiled the £1.2 billion acquisition of Intreprenuer and Spring Inns, is likely to cause furrowed brows among William Hill management. John Brown, managing director, and his team are known to favour a lower offer from CVC Capital Partners, the venture capital group, and may find themselves surplus to requirements if Nomura comes in.

In the past, the support of the incumbent management was usually sufficient to

secure this sort of deal, but the difference in the price — reported to be £80 million — and Brent Walker's huge debt mountain will make Nomura's offer difficult to resist.

For the board of Brent Walker, led by Sir

Commentary 27

Brian Goswell, the sale of William Hill will effectively bring down the curtain on the legacy of George Walker, the former boxer who borrowed heavily to build the company into a sprawling empire covering casinos, marinas, hotels, pubs and betting shops.

Since its collapse in 1991, Sir Brian has worked to sell off those assets for the best possible price, and the predicted £700 million from William Hill — added to the £171 million from the sale a year ago of Pulmaster — would leave the final cost to the banks at about £500 million. One analyst said last night: "That is an incredible result when you consider William Hill was probably worth no more than £450 million a year ago. Given that most of the banks will long since have written off the debts, they will be delighted to get so much back." The main beneficiaries are thought to be Lloyds and Standard Chartered.

The price secured for William Hill reflects

not only Nomura's buying power but also the relative turnaround of the betting business over the past couple of years. The launch of the National Lottery spell disaster for an industry still reeling from the recession and the road back has been a difficult one. A key factor has been the relaxation of the regulatory regime under which the betting industry is controlled. New rules allowing two fruit machines per shop and numbers games such as 49's have proved hugely successful.

Close Brothers is thought to have received 12 initial bids, which it whittled down to a shortlist of about half a dozen, including Bass, owner of the Coral chain.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	5262.1	(-43.5)
Yield	3.10%	
FTSE All share	2489.13	(-14.32)
Nikkei	17819.18	(+107.99)
New York	8087.77	(-111.24)*
Dow Jones	126.64	(-1.27)
S&P Composite	989.79	(-13.33)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	100.78	(101.78)
Yield	6.38%	(6.24%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
Life long gilt	119.75	(120.75)

STERLING

New York	1.6205*	(1.6227)
London	1.6225	(1.6235)
DM	2.9435	(2.9474)
FF	5.2584	(5.2721)
Sfr	2.3475	(2.3445)
Yen	120.64	(127.85)
£ Index	100.4	(100.5)

DOLLAR

London	1.7518*	(1.7575)
DM	5.8865*	(5.9055)
FF	1.4452*	(1.4480)
Yen	120.64	(127.85)
£ Index	100.4	(100.5)

Tokyo close Yen 122.28

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$20.95	(\$20.70)
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GOLD

London close	\$330.65	(\$331.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Greenspan's warning stuns Wall St

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

ALAN GREENSPAN, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, stunned Wall Street yesterday with a terse warning that the American recovery had been on an unsustainable track and that further large gains in share prices were unlikely.

The Dow Jones industrial average plummeted after Mr Greenspan's remarks to the House Budget Committee. In early afternoon trading, the Dow was quoted almost 115 points lower and the benchmark Treasury long bond was quoted nearly two points down at one stage.

European markets were caught in the severe downward draft from Wall Street leading to fears that Mr Greenspan was preparing financial mar-

kets for a rise in American interest rates. In London the FTSE 100 index closed 43.5 points lower, at 5,262.1, more than 100 points off its highs of the day.

Mr Greenspan said: "A re-emergence of inflation is, without question, the greatest threat to sustaining what has been a balanced economic expansion virtually without parallel in recent decades."

He highlighted the performance of the US labour market and, although he said there was little sign of upward pressure on wages at the moment, this could change. "If the recent two million plus annual pace of job creation were to continue, the pressures on wages... could escalate more rapidly," he said.

Echoing his comment last December about "irrational exuberance" in the stock market, which temporarily cooled off the pace of Wall Street's rise, he also said: "It clearly would be unrealistic to look for a continuation of stock market gains of those recorded in the past couple of years."

Continual upward revisions of long-term corporate earnings expectations had driven price-earnings ratios to levels not often observed at this stage of an economic expansion, Mr Greenspan added.

The Fed has not changed its monetary policy since March 25 when it raised the Federal Funds rate by 0.5 per cent, to 5.5 per cent.

Yesterday, Wall Street analysts emphasised the significance of Mr Greenspan's remarks. Elliott Platt, a strategist at DLI, said: "He alerted the markets to the possibility that the Fed could start tightening rates again. Inflation has not gone away. That is very significant, although it could dissipate in a few weeks if new statistics don't back it up."

Robert DiClemente, chief US economist at Salomon Brothers, said: "Greenspan is now recognising that the economy is not growing at a sustainable pace. We can grow rapidly as long as we are absorbing slack, or move at a faster rate of productivity growth. But now we are on a slow collision course with capacity. There is zero fear of inflation in the bond markets."

He went on: "He reminded the markets we are growing at our limits. It's the Fed's role to avoid a rollercoaster ride. To do that Greenspan has put tightening back on to the agenda."

Before the Greenspan comments, the FTSE in London stood nearly 40 points higher in early afternoon trading, purely in a reaction to Wall Street's overnight gain of 78 points.

There was little trading interest in the start of the two-day meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, which is generally expected to leave base rates unchanged. An announcement will be made today.

AT&T linked to talk of \$48bn merger in US

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the largest US telecommunications group, is believed to be in merger talks with GTE, a leading local phone company. The deal, worth \$48 billion, would dwarf the \$30 billion WorldCom bid for MCI that is threatening British Telecom's own \$24 billion MCI alliance.

Shares in AT&T and GTE have risen more than 5 per cent this week and reports that AT&T was looking at GTE to boost its local and Internet capacity. AT&T is also keen to stop the desertion of its customers to GTE's new long-distance service. A merger would return to the fold the one million customers lost over the past year.

The negotiations are inextricably linked to the succession problem at AT&T, analysts said. Bob Allen, the AT&T chief executive, is keen to leave and Chuck Lee, the GTE chief executive, is a candidate for his

job. Talks between AT&T and GTE have been in progress for several months but WorldCom's surprise bid has put pressure on the companies to do a deal.

AT&T fears for its dominant position in the US market because WorldCom-MCI would combine America's main Internet and corporate phone group with the second-biggest residential phone group.

WorldCom is keen to extend its global reach by also bringing BT into the deal as a partner. Bernard Ebbers, WorldCom's chief executive, spoke to Sir Iain Vallance, the BT chairman, on Friday and yesterday suggested formal talks could get under way. Mr Ebbers has offered BT a 10 per cent stake in return for its 20 per cent MCI stake.

The WorldCom-MCI deal and a takeover of GTE by AT&T would need regulatory approval.



Sitting comfortably: Robert Templeman, left, managing director, and Gordon Caldwell, finance director, of H&C

H&C in agreed £52m bid to take over Kingsbury

By FRASER NELSON

H&C FURNISHINGS, the newly formed furniture group set up by Lord Harris of Peckham, has made an agreed £52 million takeover bid for rival Kingsbury. The move may herald a wave of consolidation in the sector.

H&C, formed when Lord Harris reversed his Harveys group into Cantors last summer, plans to spend £7 million converting Kingsbury's 80 stores into its own cantina-to-chairs Harveys format.

It then intends to challenge DFS, the furniture group led by Sir Graham Kirkham, for the position of number two in the market by opening 100 more Harveys stores within four years, taking its nationwide portfolio to 450.

Rob Templeman, managing director, said: "The merger puts us at the forefront of the consolidation in the industry which we are going to see very shortly. The sector will



Harris: smaller holding

end up with two or three strong brands with a very large market share, and we will be one of these leaders." After the merger, H&C will command 3.6 per cent of the furniture market, against DFS's 3.8 per cent share. The next largest player is MFL market leader, which has an 11.7 per cent share. No other company has over 3 per cent.

Lord Harris, whose name dominated the furniture industry in the 1980s, will see his shareholding slip from 10 to 7 per cent after the deal. He has held the £10 million stake since Harveys split from his Harris Queensway in 1986, but remains a non-executive director, concentrating instead on running Carpetright, where he is chairman and chief executive.

H&C is draining its £13 million cash pile to finance the acquisition. It is offering 37 of its shares for every 51 of Kingsbury's — worth 202p a share at last night's close. There is a 175p a share cash alternative.

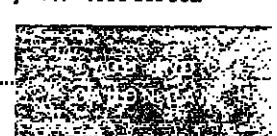
H&C shares jumped 24p to 279p yesterday, as Kingsbury shares gained 26p to a nine-month high of 200p. Kingsbury's head office in Northampton will close if the merger goes ahead, with the loss of 100 jobs.

Tempus, page 28

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Tricon aims for larger slice

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

TRICON, the largest restaurants operator in the UK, wants to expand its Pizza Hut and KFC brands aggressively after its split from Pepsi and separate New York Stock Exchange listing.

Peter Bassi, the president, said: "The UK already has our strongest business in Europe but we still have a long way to go. We are very bullish on the UK, with a lot of growth left." Tricon's 800 UK Pizza Hut and KFC restaurants places it ahead of McDonald's which has 650 restaurants. Tricon is in a 15-year-old partnership in the UK with



Whitbread, the brewer. Mr Bassi said: "That's our best joint venture worldwide. It has served as a model for operations in other countries."

Tricon is also considering the reintroduction in the UK of the Taco Bell brand, which was phased out in the early 1990s due to a lack of substantial investment. Mr Bassi said: "It had nothing to do with Brits

not liking the taste. Tacos require more work to sell than pizza. Pizza is a more universal concept. We will try again with Taco Bell, but it will take some time."

Globally, Tricon has annual sales of \$20 billion from its 30,000 restaurants in 95 countries. Its 500,000 employees feed pizza, chicken and Mexican food to 25 million customers every day. The company was spun off from Pepsi for \$4.5 billion (£2.7 billion). Andrall Pearson, the chairman, said: "Tricon will be a dynamic competitor in the marketplace with three of the strongest restaurant concepts in the world."

Commentary, page 27

Capel-Cure criticised

By CAROLINE MERRELL

CAPEL-CURE MYERS, the stockbroker, faces a public rebuke from the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) over management of part of the Mirror Group pension fund.

A memorandum from the SFA board discloses that CCM, which manages £4.5 billion of client money, breached Securities and Investments Board rules in handling the Mirror Group pension fund. Records "were practically useless for the purpose of sensibly ascertaining who had custody of the stock", the SFA says.

CCM was one of several companies, including Invesco and Lehman Brothers, ordered to pay a total

of £32 million to Mirror Group pensioners in 1994. The payment followed the death of Robert Maxwell in 1991, and a subsequent legal wrangle about assets of the pension fund. The SFA's memorandum also alludes to a £150,000 fine imposed on CCM by it last year.

The document also censures Tony Patison, investment director, claiming that he had overall responsibility for investments.

CCM, which is owned by the Canadian Insurance Group, said that the fine had been paid and accounted for. The SFA is expected to make its findings public within two weeks.

Water companies taken to task over dividends

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE water regulator launched a fresh attack on dividend payments yesterday after publishing figures that showed companies have paid out more than £6 billion to shareholders over the past four years.

Ian Byatt, Director-General at Ofwat, who has regularly attacked water companies' payouts to shareholders, said he had concerns about whether dividends are sustainable. Demanding more transparency, he said: "Customers and the regulator want to see where dividends are coming from so that we can be satisfied they are justified."

Mr Byatt, who is to set new price controls to start in 2000, said the windfall tax should rebound on dividend payments rather than customers. He said: "This tax should not be borne by customers. In some cases, therefore, this may result in lower utility

dividends than otherwise might be paid."

In real terms dividend payments by water companies have increased 55 per cent since 1992-93. Mr Byatt said: "Dividends from the regulated business should reflect only the cost of capital and the distribution to shareholders of a proper portion of the benefits of greater efficiency."

Capital investment by the water and sewerage companies increased by 22 per cent last year to £3 billion, while operating costs fell by 2 per cent, according to Ofwat figures. But Mr Byatt said that spending on improvements to sewerage had not increased as expected in the past two years. He and the Environment Agency are to investigate companies where there is believed to be a shortfall. The gap between expected spending on sewerage improvements and actual investment was more

than £900 million in the past two years, Ofwat said.

Mr Byatt said: "The agency and I intend to discuss these compliance programmes with a number of companies to ensure they have realistic plans to complete the schemes by the appropriate dates."

The Environment Agency is concerned that deadlines for key directives over sewerage standards could be at risk.

The water regulator held out the prospect of price cuts for customers in the next pricing review. He has already said he may consider a one-off price cut to bring down charges after improved efficiencies at water companies. He said: "Many companies are continuing to show that they can become more efficient than I expected, and they are improving services while reducing expenditure in real terms. I will pass onto customers these cost reductions."



Julian Budd, managing director of Alexandra: "A new, more positive sales culture"

Alexandra back in the black

ALEXANDRA WORKWEAR, the supplier of uniforms and protective clothing, is maintaining the interim dividend at 2.5p after earning pre-tax profits of £2.2 million in the 28 weeks to August 16, compared with a loss of £609,000 previously. Earnings were 4.2p a share (1.4p loss). The shares rose 5.5p to 115p.

The company, which has undergone extensive restructuring, took a £200,000 charge

against the introduction of a new sourcing operation. There was also a £504,000 loss arising from the termination of an office lease in Edinburgh.

Julian Budd, who became managing director in May, said: "A new, more positive sales culture has been adopted and we are taking full advantage of our improved competitiveness and lower cost base."

Best practice ruling to tighten up reports

THE format and nature of the preliminary announcements of company's annual results are to be tightened up if proposed rules, published in an exposure draft today, gain approval. The Accounting Standards Board (ASB) has followed up its statements on interim reports with the publication of proposals for what it called a "best practice" statement. It suggests preliminary announcements should be published within 60 days of the financial year end. This is likely to meet resistance from finance directors but, as the ASB pointed out, "this timescale is already achieved by many listed companies and should be a realistic, if challenging, target."

The proposals would also turn the spotlight on the second half year of a company's performance. Currently preliminary results focus on the results for the full year with the first half having been focused upon in the interim statement. But, as the ASB pointed out, "the market tends to react more particularly to new, previously unreported information about the second half year". As a result the ASB recommends that the final interim period data should be separately presented.

Accountancy, page 30

Business units planned

THE Government hopes to create more than 2,500 jobs through developing and building business units throughout England. The three-year programme of building new factories and offices and improving existing units will involve a new company set up by English Partnerships, the Government's regeneration agency, and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Under the first phase over one million square feet of industrial and office space will be built in areas of economic need. Schemes are planned in the North and South West regions.

Acquisition at Lloyd's

INVESTMENT in Lloyd's of London by US and Bermudan insurance companies has continued with Capital Re, the US specialist insurer, agreeing to buy CI de Rougemont, a small managing agency, for a price to be agreed. Last year, Capital Re bought RGB, another managing agency. De Rougemont runs two syndicates. Its non-marine syndicate 732 will merge with RGB's syndicate 490 for 1998 if approval is given. The deal supersedes arrangements for Limit, the investment trust, and Riverside Underwriters to take stakes in de Rougemont.

GMB calls for pay body

A NEW inspectorate should be set up to enforce the minimum wage, which should be £4 an hour at least, the GMB union urged yesterday. In its submission to the Low Pay Commission the GMB also called for the new statutory rate to be related to training, not age. A lower rate for younger workers could lead to exploitation by unscrupulous employers, said the union. Wages inspectors should have the power to examine payroll records to check that the minimum wage is being paid, the union urged.

IFA advocate resigns

ROBERT BROWNE CLAYTON, chief executive of IFA Promotion (IFAP), which has a £2.5 million annual budget from more than 40 life offices to promote independent financial advice, has resigned after only two years in the post. His departure comes after the appointment of Douglas Claisse, a former Clerical Medical deputy chief executive, as chairman of IFAP and a decision to focus it entirely on advertising and promotion rather than parliamentary lobbying. Mr Browne-Clayton said his role had thus become "less broadly based".

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Sells	Sells	Sells	Sells
Australia \$	2.34	2.16	Malta	0.685
Austria Sch	21.05	19.39	Netherlands Gld	3.400
Belgium Fr	61.37	57.01	New Zealand \$	2.68
Canada \$	2.352	2.164	Norway Kr	12.10
Cyprus Cyp£	0.887	0.815	Portugal Esc	202.53
Denmark Kr	11.43	10.54	S Africa Rd	8.29
Finland Mk	9.08	8.33	Spain Ptas	251.79
France Fr	10.04	9.26	Sweden Kr	13.08
Germany Dm	3.01	2.77	Switzerland Fr	2.50
Greece Dr	475	436	Turkey Lira	294495
Hong Kong \$	13.38	12.18	USA \$	1.729
Iceland	128	108		1.686
Ireland Pt	1.17	1.08		
Israel Sh	5.58	5.28		
Italy Lira	2090	1932		
Japan Yen	211.23	193.70		

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE TIMES

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Another lane on the superhighway



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Just when you thought it was safe to go outdoors and that the future outline of the communications revolution was starting to clarify — up pops another potentially revolutionary technology. This, we were told yesterday, already exists to ship vast quantities of data, and maybe one day voice telephony, via the Internet into the home, down perfectly ordinary electricity wires. Has convergence no limits?

It is undoubtedly a remarkable thing for Norweb and Norweb Communications technologies to have done. For years telecom engineers have looked longingly at electricity wires but until now the line has been too noisy and the interference on the line has been too great. But what sort of a business will this latest piece of technical magic turn out to be? It looks like good news for electric utilities, which have a wire into every house in the UK and would appear to have the glimmer of a new revenue stream without great extra cost. It would also seem to be another kick in the teeth for BT and anyone else, such as cable companies which have been hoping to make fast Internet access the unique selling point (USP) they have been so desperately searching for in vain for many years.

A little caution is required. As James Dodd, telecoms analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, pointed out, telecoms revenues in the UK total £15 billion a year and the Internet only several hundred million at best. The noise on the

electricity line is still too great to handle normal continuous telephone calls although the quality of voice transmission on the Internet is improving.

When the Norweb Internet system is launched nationally it could mean tougher competition for BT in the second line market. The ability to keep the electricity line to the PC permanently open without facing ruinous charges could be very attractive to Internet users.

Some were already starting to speculate yesterday that Internet access via the electricity companies would be so fast and so cheap that a new dangerous monopoly was about to be created. That seems wide of the mark, at least at the moment.

There will be intense competition from those seeking to offer the most efficient way of linking up to the Internet — with the electricity utilities joining a list of contenders ranging from orthodox telecommunications companies to digital satellite and cable groups, not to forget Bill Gates and his latest toy Web TV, which will display the Internet on television screens with the help of a "black box".

The competition is good news for consumers. The relatively high cost of telecommunications in

Europe, compared with the US, has been one of the factors limiting the spread of the Internet in countries like the UK. At the very least the impact of providing the Internet via electricity wires should over time exercise downward pressure on data communications costs. For consumers and business — and Energis is pursuing similar technology for business users — it is clearly a case of the more routes to the information future the better.

William Hill enters finishing straight

As the sale of William Hill enters the final furlong, Brent Walker's syndicate of banks must be getting ready to throw their hats in the air. Just a year ago, when a flotation seemed a more likely option, the best estimates of the betting shop chain's worth were around the £450 million mark. This after-

noon the banks are expected to be asked to accept an offer of nearer £700 million from Nomura, whose appetite for UK deals has clearly not been sated by the recent £1.2 billion purchase of Lintrepreneur and Spring Inns.

The decision by Sir Brian Goswell, Brent Walker's chairman, and Close Brothers, the company's financial adviser, not to rush the sale process has been fully vindicated. Over the past year the bookies have finally started to regain the ground lost to the National Lottery, and William Hill, number two in the market behind Ladbrokes, has seen its value soar.

Although some of that turnaround can be put down to a loosening of the regulatory regime by the Government, much of what has been achieved has been the result of a determination by the bookies to work together against the lottery by launching new games, such as 49s, while making betting shops

a more attractive environment for punters to visit.

But perhaps Sir Brian's biggest slice of luck was to hang on to the business long enough for Guy Hands, the innovative Nomura financier, to persuade his bosses of the wisdom of snapping up cash-generative businesses such as pubs and betting shops then securitising the cashflow. As a result, Nomura has shown itself willing to pay top-dollar for what are essentially mature businesses, outbidding more traditional equity deals backed by venture capitalists. Indeed, the Nomura bid for William Hill is understood to have trumped one by CVC Partners.

For the moment it appears that Mr Hands can do no wrong, but the question many City financiers are beginning to ask themselves is: Can he succeed? The last thing we need is another Iscolec.

But these are not issues that need trouble either the Brent

Walker board or the banks. Their main concern is to make as big a dent as possible in the company's estimated £1.2 billion debt mountain, and £700 million for William Hill would leave a final bill of just £500 million for Brent Walker.

Not bad considering the devastation left behind by George Walker.

Escape from Canary Wharf?

Short-termism, that heinous City trait, might not taint the thinking of City practitioners so badly when their own fortunes are at stake rather than those of their clients. The promise of guaranteed bonuses for senior BZW staff prepared to hang around long enough to find out who their new masters will be was a blatant appeal to short-termist instincts. But there are signs that the play may not prove entirely successful.

Faced with the choice of a cash handout coupled with a plunge into the unknown or a comfortable desk with a leading player, BZW chaps are apparently being tempted to quit. That may mean sacrificing one bonus but there

will surely be another ahead — escape from Canary Wharf.

Few would envy Martin Taylor the task of selling a business when its assets are evaporating but it would have been hard to do any other way. Once the decision to back out of investment banking was taken, stitching up a neat deal on the quiet would have been very tricky. Any purchasers would have insisted on carrying out due diligence, and would have been spotted, adding to the uncertainties at BZW.

The good news for Mr Taylor is that there appears to be no shortage of potential purchasers. Assuming that the due diligence does not reveal any black holes, the price could bid up nicely.

The Europeans are apparently making the running — Commerzbank and Paribas, while Credit Suisse First Boston, thought a front runner, rubs shoulders with BZW at Canary Wharf. Survivors may yet remain in their eastern confines.

Appetite lost

EARLIER this week, Gerald Abraham of Group Chef Gérard announced his expansion plans and declared that Britain was in for an unprecedented feast. Now we hear that the almighty PepsiCo is to splutter our high streets with yet more Pizza Huts and Kentucky Fried Chicken Shacks. This seems an outright contradiction of the early good tidings.

Young finds N Brown suits them

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the mail-order group best known for serving the needs of the middle-aged and the outsize, has sharply increased its sales to younger customers.

First-half turnover was up by 18.9 per cent, to £156.2 million, with sales to people in their thirties and forties up by 29 per cent, to £28 million. People in their mid-forties to sixties spent £112 million, a rise of 15 per cent, while sales to older customers were up by 22 per cent, to £8 million.

Jim Martin, chief executive, said that he was "not actively thinking about" whether N Brown should make a second bid for Freemans if the Department of Trade and Industry bans Littlewoods from buying it. "We'd look at anything, but we have excellent strategies for organic growth," he said.

N Brown withdrew an offer to Sears for Freemans after disagreement over price, clearing the way for Littlewoods to come back with a second offer that is now before the competition

authorities. A decision is expected within the next month. N Brown's pre-tax profit in the six months to August 30 was 12.4 per cent higher, at £18 million. The interim dividend, payable on January 6, rises to 2.25p (2p) out of earnings up 14.7 per cent to 8.43p.

Margins were under pressure as spending on recruiting customers, delivering by courier and installing new operating systems rose in the first half.

The company is aiming for the men's outsized branded market with a new catalogue named Trading Post. It offers men's clothes such as Wrangler with a waist size of up to 66 inches and Kickers shoes in sizes up to 14. Another area in which the company is seeking to expand is children's wear.

Mr Martin said that he was not unduly concerned about the entry of Marks & Spencer into mail order next spring because it is slightly upmarket of N Brown's catalogues. "I think it will add a level of interest and be good for consumers," he said.

Goldsmiths hit by Rolex rise

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellers run by Jurek Piasecki, went into the red in the first half because of high expansion costs and a sharp rise in the cost of Rolex watches.

The company opened six branches in the first half and will open a further nine in the next month. It plans another 20 next year and the same number the year after.

Trading profit was sharply lower after Rolex, a key brand, pushed prices higher leading to a sales rush in July 1996 that was not repeated this year.

In the six months to August 2, there was a pre-tax loss of £305,000, compared with a £54,000 profit a year ago. But the interim dividend, payable December 15, is increased by 14.6 per cent, to 2.75p per share. Same store sales were 5.6 per cent in the first half, or 9.9 per cent excluding Rolex.

Buyout at United Overseas

By FRASER NELSON

UNITED OVERSEAS, the newly floated company that sells end-of-stock kitchenware, toys and toiletries has bought out five of its joint venture partners for a total of £6.34 million.

The company, whose shares have risen by 55 per cent since it joined the market in April, has taken full ownership of Toy Wizards and UniTrade — which sell phased-out branded goods to high street chains including Woolworths and Asda.

Jeffrey Curtis, chief executive, said the company would be able to use the £20 million it raised on flotation to buy out the partners in its remaining two joint ventures if they meet performance targets. "This type of business has made us all very rich," he said. Its shares were unchanged at 92½p.

GGT London arm in 'critical' merger

By CHRIS AYRES

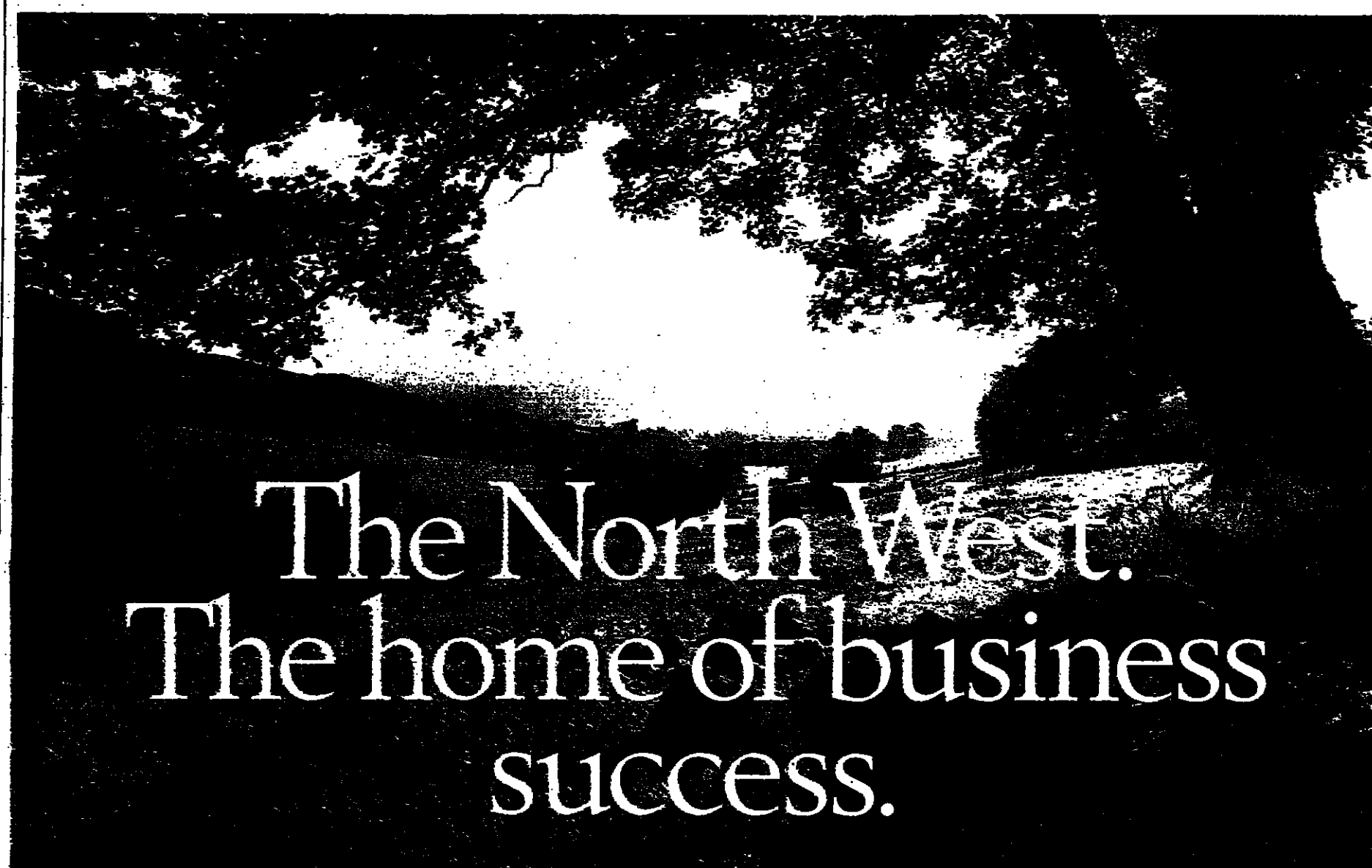
GGT, the advertising company which bought BDDP, its French rival, for £96 million in April, is set to create one of London's biggest agencies later this month.

The company plans to merge its London operations, GGT Advertising, with BST, the agency in which BDDP holds a 50.5 per cent stake. The move will involve GGT paying £2 million for the remaining 49.5 per cent stake held by BDT's founders, John Sharkey and Paul Bainsfair.

The new agency, called BDDP GGT, will have combined billings of about £230

million and will share clients such as the BBC, Cadbury, Thomas Cook and Heinz. Michael Greenlees, GGT chairman and chief executive, said: "This is a critical merger and we have put a lot of effort into seeing it through."

GGT estimates that the deal will save up to £300,000 by transferring BST's 60 staff to its headquarters in Soho, and ending the lease on BST's former premises. Mr Sharkey and Mr Bainsfair will become joint chairmen of BDDP GGT, with Grant Duncan, previously head of GGT Advertising, becoming managing director.



The North West. The home of business success.

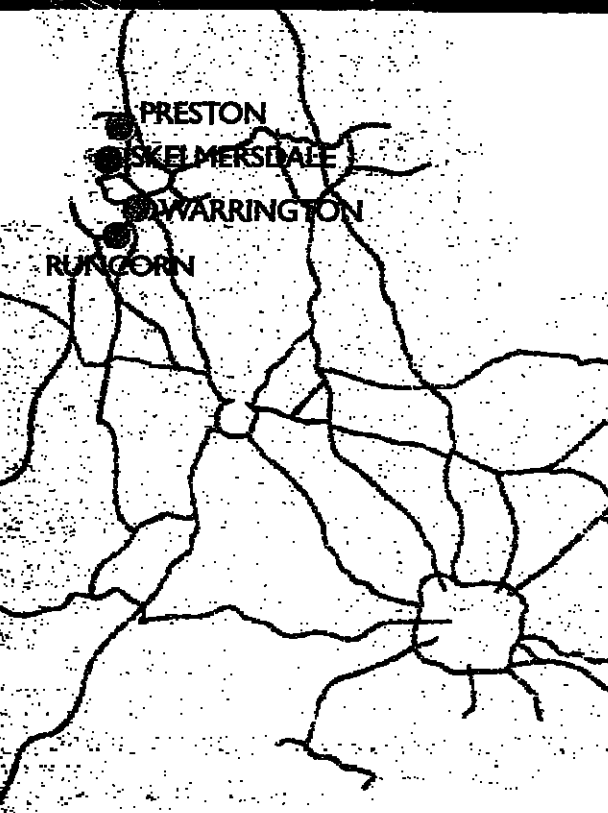
Here in the heart of some of the most natural panoramas in the UK you will find a mature, dynamic regional economy, with a wide range of manufacturing companies, some of them world leaders, and a thriving service sector, from financial services to the leisure industry.

CNT, England's largest owner of development land, has many prime greenfield sites close to the M6, M62 and the key towns of Preston, Warrington, Runcorn and Skelmersdale. All ready for fast-track, no-hassle development.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan torpedoed New York and London

THE broadside on American financial markets by Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Chairman, sent share prices on both sides of the pond reeling.

In London, investors and traders alike were sent scurrying for cover as the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 115 points in early trading. The FTSE 100 index responded with a 131.4 turnaround, as share prices saw an early gain of 61 points, their record highs, wiped out. Government bonds also fell sharply.



Support from George Soros raised African Lakes 7p

The index was able to reduce some of the fall to end 43.5 down at 5,262.1 as total turnover reached 955 million shares.

This time Greenspan has rocked the market by claiming that the bull run may be coming to an end. He warned the house budget committee that labour costs were set to rise and the economy was on an "unsustainable track". It was unrealistic to expect the gains achieved over the past two years to continue.

This is the third time during the past year that the Fed Chairman has stepped into the financial markets to put the record straight. Earlier this year, he knocked share prices for six on Wall Street by warning of "irrational over-exuberance".

British Aerospace came off its all-time high with a fall of 50.4p to 517.41p. The shares have been a firm market on revived talk of a merger with GEC, 12.1p off at 390.1p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has reduced its recommendation on BAE from "buy" to "accumulate". It says bid talk may be a bit premature. Rival ABN Amro Hoare Govett is also said to be taking a more cautious stance on the shares.

Wolsey was a strong market, jumping 21p to 534p. Brokers say the business merchant is a "charity buy".

Cable & Wireless came off the boil, falling 17p to 557.2p on turnover of 6.15 million shares as brokers began taking the view that the group's strategy for gaining a toehold in the Chinese telecom market had suffered a setback.

British Telecom remained a dull market, losing a further 7p at 444.2p in the wake of the surprise rival bid for MCI WorldCom, which last week launched a \$30 billion counterbid for MCI, says it

wants all three parties to sit round the table and resolve the matter. A further 37 million BT shares had changed hands by the close.

The oil sector got off to a flying start with Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, reckoned to be a big buyer of BP. The price touched 949.1p before reversing, along with the rest of the market, to finish 13p down at

926p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson turned bearish of the oil price. Shell was also 10.1p cheaper at 472.2p, but Enterprise Oil put on 6p at 694.1p. Laseco was 2.1p firmer at 284.1p as it played host to a party of analysts on a visit to the group's Italian operations.

Ladbroke rose 10p to 301.1p — its highest level since 1989 — amid growing hopes that it may win the management

contract for Sheraton Hotels if the US Hilton Hotel wins control of ITT, which owns the hotel chain.

Stock shortages continued to push Reckitt & Coleman 16.1p better at 810.2p, after positive comments from NatWest Securities, the broker, earlier this week rating the shares a "buy".

Billionaire financier George Soros is throwing his weight behind a rescue package for African Lakes Corporation. The troubled agricultural and mining group is raising £15.4 million via a placing and open offer at 40p. Soros Fund Management is among the companies taking up the new shares. African Lakes responded with a rise of 7p at 651.1p.

The property sector continued to respond to positive noises from both various brokers. Capital Shopping rose 13.1p to 444p. Chelsfield 13p to 373p. Daejan Holdings 20p to £15.65. Grantchester 8.1p to 168.1p. Peel Holdings 15p to 631.1p and Pillar Property 13p to 281.1p.

The agreed bid from H&C Furnishings lifted Kingsbury Group 26.1p to 200p. The terms value Kingsbury at £47.6 million, or 18p a share. H&C was also left sporting a rise of 2.4p at 279.1p.

Capital Radio jumped 24.1p to 512p after Neil Beasley at Merrill Lynch, the broker, told clients that advertising revenue was continuing to grow and the shares were too cheap.

Northern rose 6.1p to 349p after resolving its differences with Dedicated Micros, one of its biggest suppliers.

GILT-EDGED: Alan Greenspan's comments rounded off a gloomy performance by bonds. They closed at their low for the day, nursing falls of more than 1p at the longer end.

In futures, the December series of the long gilt finished £1.12 down at £119.132 as a total of 118,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £1.12 lower at £116.132, while at the shorter end Treasury 3 per cent 200 was £1.04 off at £103.14.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares were sharply lower in morning trading, pressured by a bond market sell-off. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 111.24 points at 8,067.07.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 8067.07 (-111.24)
S&P Composite 969.79 (-13.33)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17619.16 (+107.99)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14838.52 (+27.76)

Amsterdam:
Euronext 2768.40 (+4.10)

Sydney:
ASX 3547.24 (+39.25)

Singapore:
Straits 1882.03 (+1.69)

Brussels:
General 1490.74 (+39.09)

Paris:
CAC-40 3024.00 (+40.34)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1233.70 (+3.70)

London:
FT 30 3024.8 (+4.2)
FTSE 100 5262.1 (-131.4)
FTSE 250 2538.4 (-16.3)
FTSE 350 2538.4 (-16.3)
FTSE All-Share 2775.01 (+0.43)
FTSE 100 Dividends 245.08 (+2.69)
FTSE Fixed Interest 133.23 (+0.31)
FTSE Govt Secs 100.70 (-0.73)
Sterling 1.6223 (-0.0012)
German Mark 1.0432 (+0.0022)
Exchange Index 100.14 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close 14.40
CDSR 175.13 Sep (2.74) Jan 1997-100
RFX 157.8 Sep (2.74) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Aggreko 173p - 3
Buckland Inv Writs 10 ...
Buckland Investments 17p ...
Cannibary Inv Writs 14p ...
Cannibary Investments 3 ...
Computerland UK 140p ...
Creative Publishing 100p - 4
IS Solutions 147p ...
Lachways (115) 174p ...
NSB Retail Sys 150p + 3
Northern Rock 261p + 8
SHL Group 48p - 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Consolid Coal n/p (5) 1p ...
Gearhouse n/p (250) 110p ...
Premier Ass n/p (13) 1p ...

MAJOR CHANGES

RUSES:
Kingsbury Gp 200p (+26p)
Zellers Gp 111p (-11p)
Diagonal 505p (+34p)
Cot Telecom 593p (+35p)
Fidel Earth 310p (+16p)
Safaricom 127p (+22p)
Capital Radio 512p (+24p)
Pillar Prop 281p (+13p)
Wolsey 534p (+21p)
Ladbroke 301p (+10p)
Geest 385p (+11p)
Irish Port 770p (+20p)
Royal & Sun A 681p (+15p)
Robert Walters 407p (+21p)
Ellis & Everard 304p (+13p)
Royalblue 259p (+11p)

FALLS:
Airsprung 188p (-48p)
Ranco Energy 895p (-105p)
Bri Stetson 1221p (-102p)
Safaricom 127p (-22p)
Bocomps Int 520p (-25p)
De La Rue 392p (-13p)
JJB Sports 489p (-15p)
Bank Wireless 557p (-17p)
Bank Scotland 501p (-14p)
Argos 650p (-18p)
Blakes Spicers 452p (-14p)
Lloyds TSB 791p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 33

Soft furnishings

THINK of furniture and try to come up with half a dozen big volume brands. A few names might spring to mind — MFI, Ikea, DFS — but you would be hard pressed to list many more. This is the problem facing H&C, an ambitious young furniture company that yesterday bid £47 million for Kingsbury, a smaller rival. The two operations combined will have turnover of about £250 million but that will be enough to push H&C's brand, Harveys, into the number three slot, after MFI and DFS, with a market share of 7 per cent.

If Harveys is not a household name today, H&C has every intention that it will become so but it will not be an easy task. Investment in advertising will rise 50 per cent, but even then the marketing spend will fall well short of the sums spent by DFS which earns an operating margin of 16 per cent compared with the lowly

5-6 per cent at Harveys. H&C is paying a very full price for Kingsbury whose profits collapsed in the first half after a less than successful venture into interest-free credit. Closing down the head office and combining supply and marketing spend should make healthy savings but the big challenge will be to boost sales per square foot which is not much above £100 in both Harveys and Kingsbury compared with £300 plus for Ikea and DFS.

Furniture is probably the worst-sold consumer product, a factor that allows brilliant marketers like DFS and Ikea to make hay while more than half of the market remains with small independent shops. If H&C can turn Harveys into a well-recognised furniture brand, this deal will soon look cheap but creating brands is a lot more difficult than buying companies.

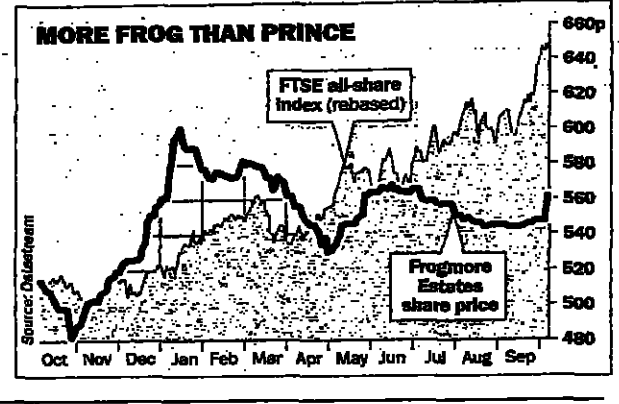
Frogmore

Would you buy a share in a hybrid housebuilder/property company heavily invested in post central London flats. After a look at yesterday's shaky gilt market you might think twice.

Mr Alan Greenspan's worries about share valuations on Wall Street may have little to do with the diminutive Frogmore Estates but the company has a keen interest in seeing the pot simmer for another year or two. Frogmore is a trader and one that cleverly invested in office to residential conversions, backing Galford Homes, the developer, first at County Hall, then next door at the former Shell building. The company has a big development underway further downstream on the Thames at Butler's Wharf and a portfolio of land and

properties capable of generating some 3,400 flats.

The current London housing boom is being fed by hot money, a combination of City bonuses and Far Eastern which good retail and office properties enjoyed handsome price increases. At best, Frogmore is a good in-an-out merchant and this time investors should quickly exit.



Contracting

FEW builders will admit to being in the traditional contracting business these days. After the collapse of the commercial building market and government cutbacks in infrastructure spend, builders saw their slim margins collapse to nil. So, belatedly, they fled the market, either rushing abroad to underbid for glitzy construction projects or, more profitably, into domestic housing. For those remaining, the buzzword is negotiation and partnering with clients. Instead of bidding low in hard fought tenders and then suing their clients for cost overruns, the new customer-friendly contractor seeks an exclusive but mutually profitable deal, either sharing the cost-savings or charging a higher fee for a better-designed project that saves the client money.

It all sounds super but despite claims by all the builders that they avoid com-

petitive tenders, the margins are not coming through. Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow, Costain and Mowlem are all reporting margins from contracting of about 1 per cent.

However, one company consistently reports much better margins. Morrison Construction is earning a 5.8 per cent return from its building business, a level of profitability that is almost unheard of in the sector. The problem for most builders is that in partnership deals the contractor must take on some of the project's risk: pricing risk is not a skill in which builders have traditionally shown a great deal of competence but Morrison seems to be the exception.

N Brown

After two attempts to enter the mail order premier league, N Brown's failure to secure promotion by buying either Littlewoods or Freemans has left its many fans perplexed. On the one hand,

Brown has the managerial skill to run either of these underperforming giants. On the other hand, taking on the task would have stretched resources, led to a rights issue and dilution, and forced Brown to take on much greater commercial risks. Yesterday's results, with a 19 per cent rise in turnover, showed that N Brown is still capable of generating growth in its own sales. And even though the second half started off quietly, it should still deliver double digit growth for the year as a whole.

A teaser for investors would be the prospect of the DTLI turning down the current Littlewoods bid for Freemans. Brown would find itself in a strong position to negotiate a better price for Freemans, leaving fewer worries about dilution. Priced at a more modest 20 per cent premium to the market, Brown looks good value even if it carries on paddling its own canoe.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHER

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Turnover falls 10% at Time

Time Products, the luxury goods group that distributes watches, yesterday blamed a 10 per cent fall, to £43.3 million, in its interim turnover on an exceptional, one-off individual purchase last year.

The company, which also supplies Sekonda watches, the biggest selling brand in the UK, has seen its share price plunge since describing last year's sales of £48.3 million as unusually high. Confidence in the group has also been depleted by the failure to make a profit again on the Judith Leiber handbag business that it purchased four years ago.

Leslie Michaels, finance director, said: "If you look at our results on a five-year basis we are having a boom. We just had exceptional sales last year." He admitted the company had not previously experienced a similar one-off surge in demand.

In spite of the fall in sales, Time lifted pre-tax profits by 10 per cent, from £9 million to £9.9 million, in the six months to July 31. The company said that it had benefited from a one-off £1.6 million profit from selling its former head office. Earnings per share increased from 11.29p to 12.43p, and a dividend of 4.9p, up fractionally from 4.5p, will be paid on January 9. The shares closed 8p down yesterday, at 260½p.

Losses deepen at Bolton FC

Burnley Leisure, the parent company of Bolton Wanderers, the Premier League football club, reported a rise in pre-tax losses to £4 million, from £2.2 million, in the 14 months to June 30. Turnover was £5.4 million, compared with £4.8 million in the previous period. Losses per share deepened from 7.57p to 9.12p. A dividend of 0.5p will be paid on January 31. The company said that it had invested more than £30 million on developing its new 25,000-seater stadium, which is sponsored by Reebok, the sportswear manufacturer. The club has also recently spent £3.5 million on improving its squad of players.

SAirGroup pays £65m for BA's in-flight catering

By Jon Ashworth

THE last big plank in the British Airways disposal programme fell into place yesterday when the airline clinched the sale of its in-flight Heathrow catering division, pledging to protect perks and jobs.

Gate Gourmet, part of the SAirGroup, which owns Swissair, is paying £65 million for BA's catering arm, which employs 1,200 people in the long-haul catering side, producing about 25,000 meals a

day. Short-haul catering produces the same output again under a management contract that was awarded to Gate in 1982.

Gate will supply BA flights under a ten-year supply contract, subject to final negotiation. The deal largely completes the recent round of disposals by BA, which is seeking £1 billion in annual savings under its business efficiency programme.

BA is struggling to restore morale in the wake of this summer's damaging industrial action by cabin crew, and was eager to stress the human element.

Bob Ayling, the BA chief executive, said: "I am particularly pleased that we were able to sell the catering operation to a first-class employer like SAirGroup. We had a lot of interest, but one of the key issues for us was that the purchaser should be a company with a first-class reputation for employment."

Up to 9,000 BA ground staff threatened to strike over plans to sell catering, fearing a knock-on effect in pay cuts and job losses. Catering workers feared that they would lose their generous travel perks — including discounts of up to 90 per cent on flights — and were concerned that a new employer would bring longer hours and lower pay.

BA initially pledged to safeguard jobs, pay and discounts for up to three years after the division had been sold, and later sweetened the offer.

BA has denied seeking to turn itself into a "virtual airline" by parcelling out various parts of its operation to outside contractors. In recent months BA has sold ground fleet services to Ryder, outsourced its IT operations, and streamlined its engineering division, selling wheels and brakes, and landing gear.

BA had intended to spin-off engineering and sell a stake in the business to outside investors, but decided to postpone the move until 2000. BA's Heathrow contract-handling unit was closed last year, with the loss of 750 jobs.

Contenders for the catering division included Alpha Airports Group, which handles BA catering at other airports in the United Kingdom, including Gatwick. Other potential buyers included LSG Sky Chefs, the world's largest in-flight caterer.

Gate Gourmet already serves BA from 21 airports worldwide. It is owned by SAirRelations, one of four corporate divisions within the SAirGroup, and employs 14,000 people, and supplies more than 250 airlines.

Intertech takeover makes CRT top in computer staffing

By Fraser Nelson

CRT, the recruitment and training company, has become the largest player in Britain's fast-growing market for contract computer staff with the £10.8 million takeover of the rival Intertech Computer Consultants.

CRT, which has been growing by 20 per cent a year on an underlying basis, will overtake Delphi to become market leader, with expected sales of £190 million for this year. MSB will be forced into third place.

Dennis Lynsott and Jess Jaworski, two former computer programmers who set up Intertech ten years ago, will share £8.8 million in cash and

£2 million in CRT shares. Both will stay with the company.

Carl Chapman, chief executive of CRT, played down the expected work to come from the millennium computer bug, which, he said, has so far accounted for a minimal proportion of sales.

"The Year 2000 problem is an upward blip on an upward trend," he said. "The computer market is going to see steady growth over the next few years, but not an astronomical surge that some people are predicting."

Even after buying Intertech, CRT will have £45 million in its acquisition warchest. Mr Chapman said.

The acquisition takes CRT into the Internet programming market, adding to its existing presence in finding staff to work on old-style mainframe computer systems. Both Intertech offices will be shut, bringing an overall exceptional charge of £400,000.

Analysts upgraded CRT profit forecasts slightly to £20.6 million in this financial year, against £21.1 million last time.

Intertech has about 450 computer and other staff placed at any time, which will add to CRT's group total of 5,500. Computer recruitment will now be 77 per cent of group sales.



Chapman: takeover fund



Bill Simpson, left, Silentnight chief executive, and Barry McKenzie, finance director

Silentnight has dream start with UK trading

By Sarah Cunningham

SILENTNIGHT, the bed and cabinet furniture manufacturer, enjoyed a comfortable first half at home but experienced problems overseas.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to August 2 rose from £4.9 million to £5.8 million on turnover up 9 per cent to £107.6 million.

The UK beds division performed strongly, with operating profit up 63 per cent to £4.7 million. Most of the UK cabinet division also did well, with the exception of the Meredew factory, bought in December 1996, which made a loss of £979,000. The company said that the loss should be reduced in the second half.

The picture was very different in the US, where a strong trading performance from the company's two bed factories was marred by an exceptional bad debt of £450,000 caused when Montgomery Ward, one of the biggest retailers in North America and a major customer, filed for insolvency.

Business conditions in Germany remained unfavourable and the group's mattress plant experienced intense pressure on both sales volumes and prices. Turnover fell 25 per cent and operating profit fell from £399,000 to £163,000.

The company will pay an interim dividend of 3.3p (3p) on January 2.

The shares were down 17½p yesterday at 315p, wiping out a large part of the 25p gain seen on Tuesday in anticipation of the results.

Airsprung blames management

By Sarah Cunningham

AIRSPRUNG Furniture, the Wiltshire-based furniture and upholstery maker, issued a profit warning yesterday, blaming "serious management shortcomings".

At the same time, it said it would be paying £300,000 compensation to the chief executive who left the company in August.

John Pierce was replaced in the post by Peter Ziemiak, the former chairman of the beds division. A review by Mr Ziemiak has

revealed management shortcomings and quality problems in the Show-wood components division and in Duckers Furniture.

Michael Coppel, chairman of Airsprung, said yesterday that he had been unaware of the problems when Mr Pierce left the company and that compensation was being paid to honour his contract.

Airsprung said that pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 would be "sub-

stantially below market expectations" at about £1.5 million, including the £300,000 provision. Its shares fell 49p to 186½p.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £6.36 million last year and analysts had been expecting it to manage £8 million this year.

Mr Coppel said that the middle management at Show-wood had been replaced while up to 20 workers at Duckers were being made redundant. He said

that the problems at Show-wood had been connected with poor quality control and a high rate of returns from customers. At Duckers, the problem was that new labour-saving machinery had been installed in the spring but had not resulted in lower staff levels.

The company insisted that trading in the rest of the group is going well and that the group's "normal profit pattern" should return in the second half.

Go-between that saves the day

Michael Oldham looks at one alternative to calling in the receivers that can benefit all

THE past ten years have seen much change in the handling of ailing businesses. With the revised insolvency legislation of 1986 and the recession in the early Nineties, the concept of rescue has gained prominence as bankers and insolvency practitioners direct more energy to keeping businesses alive.

However, rescues for partnerships and sole traders have lacked a formal method for a qualified practitioner, acting as a creditor, to obtain direct control of a debtor business operating as a going concern because of the absence of powers of conventional security given by companies.

This has meant that the debtor has been left in control and the rescue plan monitored by the professional adviser. In many cases the imposition of an insolvency appointment may have destroyed a business that could have been saved.

Businesses experiencing difficulties require a mechanism for controlling early signs of insolvency and it is in these scenarios that the recently developed Asset Control Arrangement (ACA) can play a key role.

The technique was first employed in the management and disposal of a chain of franchise

restaurants. Although the chain had been profitable, there was cause for concern about future trading and management intentions. The view of the creditors was that disposal as a going concern was the best exit route.

In light of concerns about the business, the secured creditors wanted the assets and trading brought under the control of an experienced practitioner pending sale. We were reluctant to suggest that the secured creditor appointed us as Law of Property Act receiver of the leasehold properties as this was potentially damaging to asset value and could result in problems with landlord, licensing authorities, leasing companies, Crown creditors and, of course, the franchisor. We began brainstorming the idea of achieving control with our solicitors, Dibo Lupton Alsop, and the bank and developed the ACA. By acting as intermediaries between debtor, secured creditor and franchisor, we formulated a medium-term trading and disposal plan that was accepted by all parties. The documentation structure was then devised, including a power of attorney to two partners, giving us appropriate powers to operate the business.

The ACA proved strikingly successful. The business generated a trading profit in excess of expectations and was sold for a substantial sum after an extensive marketing campaign. After payment to the bank, the franchisor and business creditors, there was still a significant surplus to return to the owners. If receivers had been appointed, it is likely that all creditors would have suffered a considerable shortfall and the owners would have been bankrupt.

The advantages of this arrangement are manifest, but



Michael Oldham says the ACA embraces rescue culture

simply and the ability to tailor each arrangement to a specific purpose are obvious. There is no stigma of an insolvency appointment, which might prejudice both attitudes and asset values and which also brings about statutory obligations. What is more, by acting as agents of disclosed principals, we are able to avoid the problem of personal liability to third parties. Where there is no floating charge, the power to trade may be questionable, but

by passing over all the powers held by the proprietors or board of the debtor, the ACA overcomes these difficulties. It is important to appreciate, too, that the technique has application even where it is not principally being driven by the demands of one major creditor; companies themselves may want to utilise it. Where directors are agreed on the need for change to operations, or perhaps the sale of assets, but divided on the means or methods, bringing in qualified outsiders to act within the scope of an agreed plan but with powers to see it through can benefit all.

The disadvantage of an ACA is that it does not automatically provide debtor protection against creditors while the ACA operates.

Even as things stand, we see significant application of the ACA approach to debt problems of property-based businesses. If this new technique were to be used regularly, then care would have to be taken to ensure that it did not become a cowboys' charter.

Although an ACA is not a salvation to all businesses, it can be extremely useful. It embraces the concept of rescue cultures and places day-to-day control of a business in the hands of experienced insolvency practitioners without the potentially destructive effects of an insolvency appointment.

□ The author is a corporate recovery partner in Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountant.

Auditor's eye turns to granny's welfare

FEW ACCOUNTANTS would say that the reason they came into the profession was to report on the health and welfare of other people's grannies. Yet if you were to cross the Atlantic, you might find a different story. Over there, they think that the market for providing people with assurance that their "loved ones" are in good hands in whatever retirement or nursing home they have been placed will eventually equal the current audit market in terms of overall revenue.

It is the sort of view that provokes head-scratching over whether the Americans are really of this planet. However, this seemingly strange extension of the market in providing business assurance, as auditors now prefer it to be known, is the product of the sort of processes that are in train here.

In the UK, the main project looking at what the market will be for accountants in the future is the English ICA's "Chartered Accountants in 2005" initiative. In America, it is the American Institute's "Special Committee on Assurance Services", chaired by Bob Elliott of KPMG. Elliott broke a family holiday in the Cotswolds to talk to the English ICA at the end of last week.

It was an extraordinary presentation. The basic premise was the same as it is for accountants here — that the market is moving away from traditional accounting activities, and that new lines of work need to be created. However, the conclusions, by UK standards, were somewhat off the wall.

Elliott started, simply enough, by pointing out the great values of traditional audit work. It promotes honest security markets. It reduces the cost of capital. It improves liquidity. And the services retain a great deal of value to the profession.

However, weighed against that are a number of other negating factors. There is the explosion of litigation. There is a saturated market: there are no great swaths of companies that remained unaudited and which the law is going to bring into the net. Technology is making inroads. Audit is becoming an unattractive part of the profession and may fall to lure great talent.

In the US, total audit revenues have not grown in real terms for several years. They have stuck at \$7 billion. This does not mean that people are no longer interested in the services auditors provide. It is that they are more interested in those services provided by

non-accountants. Financial statements dutifully certified by accountants are no longer the key information. "Demand for the information that accountants produce is flat," Elliott said. "The demand for information that other sources provide is skyrocketing."

Hence the accountant's problem. Elliott's answer is to broaden the assurance markets that accountants work in. He suggested a broader definition to start with, saying: "Assurance services are independent professional services that improve the quality of information content for decision-makers."

That sounds almost hopeful. However, as Elliott emphasised, there is a catch. At present, US accountants have the \$7 billion market because, by law, no one else can do audits. Extending assurance into new markets means looking at fields in which accountants are not protected. Anyone can join this brave new world of assurance services. So accountants, with what Elliott categorised as their lack of nimbleness, their emphasis on regulations and their accounting mindset, are at a disadvantage.

Hence his committee's identification of different services. ElderCare is one of those new markets. Research apparently shows that people would be willing to pay a median \$500 a month for accountants to provide them with regular assurance on the healthcare regime to which their elderly relatives have been consigned. Another is the WebTrust mark. This icon appears on Websites. By clicking on it, a user is taken to financial information on the company whose site it is. The idea is that users can thus do some rudimentary due diligence work before entering a transaction. Giving an insight into the speed at which the idea arose in January and that the product was rolled out last month.

Those are two of the more unusual ideas. Others included an "entity performance measurement" service and electronic assurances. They show what can be done. The intention, said Elliott, was "to keep rolling out new services and develop new competencies", ensuring that the institute was "becoming market savvy". It is hard to envisage the English ICA becoming so market-driven, partly because the UK market is very different. However, accountants here should note what the Americans are doing, if only because they too will need to be looked after in old age.



ROBERT BRUCE

Summing up to end them all

HUGH ALDOUS, senior partner in Robson Rhodes, has always been an enterprising chap. And now he has come up with the ultimate defence should accountants fall foul of the courts. He has found a report of a case of alleged fraudulent accounting in Alberta, Canada. The judge is reported as summing up with: "You're guilty. I'm certain of that, but I simply can't bear to listen to your damned

accountant any longer. It is my observation that he is beyond a doubt the dullest witness I've ever had in my court. He speaks in a monotone voice so totally devoid of interest, and uses language so convoluted, that even the court reporter cannot stay conscious long enough to record his evidence properly. I've had it. Three solid days of his steady drone as he defends an obviously fraudulent set of

year-end accounts is enough. I cannot face the prospect of another 14 indictments. It's probably unethical, but I don't care. Case dismissed."

Moscow move

IT'S a bit like the old days of the Cold War. The first hint of trouble is a defection at the Moscow station. People have been scouring the offices of Price Waterhouse and Coopers

& Lybrand as the two firms prepare to face up a merger. Tales of worried partners abound. Now, Robert Fort, head of PW's financial services group, has announced that he is to jump ship. He is to join the Moscow office of Clifford Chance, the law firm. Fort is upbeat about his defection. "Having worked closely with Clifford Chance in Moscow over the last two years, I am proud to be joining such an

outstanding firm," he said. Old comrades, obviously.

Name game

TIM PRIZEMAN, the veteran accountancy PR man, set up on his own a while back after stints at Deloitte & Touche and Arthur Andersen. His new enterprise, based in the City, goes by the name of Kelso Consulting. And now his niche has been recognised. A restaurant has opened up beneath his office. It is called "Propaganda".

ROBERT BRUCE

Micro over

Win a gourmet dinner for 1

Former geologist at Bre-X 'ran fraud'

By George Sivell

INVESTIGATORS hired by Bre-X Minerals of Canada said that Michael de Guzman, who died while employed as the company's chief geologist, orchestrated the world's biggest gold swindle.

A report from the private investigators states that de Guzman, who died after falling from a helicopter, ordered an employee to add gold to worthless samples of barren rock in 1993 in an attempt to keep Bre-X Minerals from closing Bingham, its Indonesian exploration project once hailed as the world's largest gold deposit.

Bre-X released a three-page summary of the agency's 430-page interim report by Forensic Investigative Associates. It stated that de Guzman made millions in profits before the four-year tampering operation was exposed earlier this year.

The report said there were plans to stop the drilling at the Borneo site after tests proved to be barren. But instead, the investigators said they had "reasonable and probable grounds to believe that de Guzman directed a Bre-X geologist, Cesar Pupos, to salt samples with alluvial gold to prevent the company from shutting down the project."

Simplicio "Jojo" de Guzman, de Guzman's younger brother, said the geologist did not make millions in profits as claimed. His family believes he was murdered.



Geoffrey Woods, of Bridport-Gundry, which supplies spares for British-made military aircraft throughout the world

Aviation service firm 80% ahead

BRIDPORT-GUNDRY, the aviation and defence services company that has grown out of the old Dorset fishing-net business, raised pre-tax profits by 80 per cent to £2.61 million in the year to July 31.

The disposal of the last of Bridport-Gundry's traditional textile businesses raised £2 million in the year, and the company is to change its name to Bridport.

Earnings per share rose by 11 per cent, to 10.2p, out of which the total dividend rises to 4.55p, up 12.6 per cent. The group ended the year with net cash of £2.7 million, an improvement from net debt of £2.4 million the previous year.

Geoffrey Woods, chief executive, said: "We intend to use our cash flow and balance sheet to fund complementary acquisitions."

Microsoft faces legal threat over computer language

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT is facing a serious legal threat that could halt its product roll-out as a bitter dispute over the software group's monopoly position escalates.

Sun Microsystems is suing Microsoft over the use of Sun's Java computer language. Sun claimed that Microsoft, which is licensed to integrate Java into its software, manipulated the language so as to favour its own Windows programs over competitors' programs.

Sun wants to protect the purity of Java to make computers compatible worldwide.

It wants Microsoft to stop using its adapted version of Java and has threatened to revoke its licensing agreement.

Microsoft responded by saying that Sun's claims were "outrageous and completely unfounded". It denied violating any agreements and said Sun was merely trying to keep control over a potentially very lucrative product.

Microsoft is also facing a monopoly investigation from attorneys-general in four US states. Investigators from California, New York, Minnesota and Connecticut are prepar-

ing to file a lawsuit against Microsoft before the launch of the new Windows program in spring.

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut attorney-general, said Microsoft could be guilty of pressuring computer-makers into using its software exclusively. He said: "What we are looking at is the alleged monopoly concerning Microsoft software." Similar investigations are under way in Texas and Massachusetts.

Over recent weeks Microsoft has increasingly been confronted with the uni-

ted wrath of anti-trust campaigners, industry rivals and state regulators over its estimated 80 per cent share of the software market. A US Senate sub-committee will hold hearings on anti-competitive practices in the computer industry, while key consumer groups are lobbying the Justice Department to start a predatory pricing investigation.

In the most significant commercial setback, Intel, the semiconductor manufacturer, has rejected Microsoft's new digital cable television standard and is backing an alter-

native developed by Oracle. Microsoft is competing with a group of software houses led by Oracle to define the way that cable television viewers will have access to the Internet. Cable technology is to be made interactive, giving cable viewers access to electronic mail, home shopping, video games and films.

Microsoft has invested heavily in the technology which is deemed to open up lucrative retail markets. In June it invested \$1 billion in Comcast, America's fourth-largest cable operator.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Public 'unaware of ombudsman schemes'

OMBUDSMAN schemes to deal with consumer complaints are being hampered because too few people know about them, a watchdog warns today. Public awareness of ombudsmen was very low, with even the best known scheme, the Banking Ombudsman, only recognised by 42 per cent of people, according to a survey. More people claimed to have heard of the Travel Industry Ombudsman than the Pensions Ombudsman — although the travel scheme does not exist, said the report, by the Consumers' Association. It also called for regulation of the rapidly rising number of industry-run schemes covering services from estate agents to funerals.

Unless an agreed standard was drawn up for all ombudsmen, it would be impossible for consumers to know if the schemes really offered a fair, independent and effective arbitration service or were simply a public relations exercise, the report said. However, it added that ombudsman schemes did provide a useful, cheap and flexible way of resolving problems between consumers and companies without resorting to legal action.

Stagecoach adds to fleet

STAGECOACH, the transport company, announced a multi-million pound order for 515 new buses to improve its nationwide fleet. The Perth company, which operates 7,500 vehicles, said the order would reduce the average age of its fleet to seven years, against an industry average of ten. The order includes chassis built by MAN, Dennis, Volvo and Mercedes, and bodies made by Alexander and Jonckheere. Brian Souter, chairman, said: "We remain convinced that the introduction of new vehicles generates a significant cost advantage."

Loral to buy Orion

LORAL Space & Communications, the satellite group based in New York, has agreed to buy Orion Network Systems, whose satellite system will soon be able to provide services to 85 per cent of the world's population. The share deal values Orion at about \$490 million (£302 million) and extends Loral's reach beyond US borders. Orion, based in Maryland, operates one of the first privately owned international satellite communications systems, serving 350 multinational companies and Internet service providers in 47 countries. It owns the Orion 1 satellite and has two more satellites under construction.

Hamanaka bank move

SUMITOMO CORP, the Japanese trading house, said on Wednesday that Swiss authorities had given it permission to confiscate a secret bank account held by its disgraced former head copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka. In June 1996, Sumitomo announced losses of \$2.6 billion (£1.6 billion), which it said were due to unauthorised deals by Hamanaka. It has been reported in the Japanese press that the account held around \$51 million (£32.7 million). Hamanaka has pleaded guilty at the Tokyo District Court to charges of fraud and forgery in connection with the unauthorised trades.

Daimler switches to euro

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's largest company, is to adopt the euro as its official house currency from 1999, it was announced yesterday. Daimler said the cost of the switchover would come to DM200 million (about £70 million) but that it would reduce currency market exposure by 30 per cent. Juergen Schreppel, the company's chairman, has been an outspoken advocate of European monetary union, saying it would help to protect the company from swings in the mark's value against other European currencies. Daimler has been a leader in adopting new accounting procedures.

Europe's high flyers

MAJOR west European airlines showed a 10 per cent year-on-year rise in passenger traffic for August, continuing a powerful growth trend, the Association of European Airlines (AEA) said yesterday. Intra-European traffic increased 11.6 per cent. On long-haul routes 81.6 per cent of the seats were sold and intra-European load factors reached a 70.2 per cent high. Karl-Heinz Neumeister, AEA Secretary-General, said: "During the last few years the month of August has become the busiest month of the year for air travel." Every day during August more than half a million passengers crossed borders on AEA member airlines.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a gourmet dinner for four



Enter the competition to win a gourmet dinner for four at the exclusive restaurant, The White Horse, London. The dinner is worth £150 and includes a three-course meal, wine, and a bottle of champagne. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. To enter, visit the website www.whitehorse.co.uk or call 0891 300 375.

HOW TO ENTER

Win a gourmet dinner for four at the exclusive restaurant, The White Horse, London. The dinner is worth £150 and includes a three-course meal, wine, and a bottle of champagne. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over. To enter, visit the website www.whitehorse.co.uk or call 0891 300 375.

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CHANGING TIMES

Gyrus hopes for £10m from float

By Paul Durman

GYRUS GROUP, a designer of electro-surgical tools for keyhole surgery, is hoping to raise £10 million in a flotation that should value the company at £45 million or more.

This will give Mark and Colin Goble, the brothers who founded Gyrus in 1989, a holding worth about £12 million. Neither brother plans to sell shares in the float.

Gyrus's first two products — cutting tools that vaporise tissue when an electric current is passed between electrodes — have been approved by US regulators and are being sold by Ethicon, part of Johnson & Johnson, and Gynecare, an American company specialising in women's health. Orders for the AxiPolar and AxiPlus electrodes are ahead of forecasts made when they were launched a few months ago.

Gyrus expects to lose £4 million this year. However, product launches are intended to take it into profit in 2000.

Herion acquisition lifts shares in IMI

By Our City Staff

IMI, the international engineering group, has agreed to acquire Herion-Werke, a German manufacturer of pneumatic control valves, for a total of DM 245 million (about £86 million), it was announced yesterday.

IMI is paying DM 110 million in cash and assuming debts of DM135 million. Herion, based near Stuttgart,

is a leading supplier of valves to the European manufacturing industry. In 1996 the company earned DM 14 million before interest and tax on sales of DM 334 million. Net assets are estimated at DM 75 million after deducting the debt assumed.

The company has five sales and distribution subsidiaries around the world. IMI said Herion's success in specialised valve technology was based on innovative research and development.

IMI, whose chief executive is Gary Allen, said the acquisition will be funded from existing bank facilities. The acquisition is expected to enhance earnings per share after 1998. Herion will become part of IMI's fluid power group of companies. Completion is expected by the end of November, subject to regulatory clearances.

IMI shares rose 8½p to 424½p yesterday, their highest level in more than five years.



Allen: buying top supplier

Triplex Lloyd ends talks

By George Sivell

SHARES in Triplex Lloyd rose 10p to 225p yesterday after the engineering group said that it had ended discussions with a potential bidder.

The shares have risen steeply since touching a low for the year of 154p in August, and the group is worth around £150 million on the stock market.

Triplex said: "After careful consideration of the company's position and prospects, the board concluded that such discussions were unlikely to

lead to an offer capable of being recommended to shareholders, and discussions have effectively terminated."

Analysts said that any bid for Triplex would be at about 260p to 270p and that the group had effectively put itself "into play" by making the announcement. Triplex earlier this year lost a battle to acquire William Cook, the steel castings group, for £75 million.

One broker said that the announcement "implies that

the Triplex board would have recommended the offer if the price had been right."

Some dealers said that they expect a hostile bidder to emerge for the group in the near future. One analyst said: "The company has effectively put itself into play. There are a number of specialist engineering companies who would be interested."

A bid of 260p to 270p a share would indicate an offer at £170 million to £180 million.



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A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, in Europe and further afield, many at bargain prices:

BRITAIN

CORNISH cottages are available at a discount over the coming half-term from Blakes Cottages. Four-bed properties in St Cleer cost from £310, eight-bed cottages up to £481. Golf, castles, country houses and the coast are all within half an hour's drive. Details: 01282 445097.

ROTHAY GARDEN, a traditional stone hotel at Grassmere in the Lake District, is offering valuable extras to those booking short breaks from November 1. The two-night weekend break, costing £95 a person, includes a five-course dinner and complimentary Sunday lunch. The four-night midweek break, from

£125 a person, also includes the dinner. Details: 01539 435334.

IT'S going to be murder at the Gothic-style Wrea Head Hotel on the North York Moors near Scarborough at Halloween when guests will be invited to solve the crime at a murder mystery evening. Cost of the two-night break on October 31 and November 1 with dinner, bed and breakfast is £119 a person. Details: 01723 374374.

FOUR holiday parks in Scotland, complete with heated indoor pools and evening entertainment, are featured in half-price midweek offers this month from Parkdean Holidays. Prices for caravans and chalets for a Monday to Friday four-night break range from £60 to £125. Details: 0191-224 0500.

FIREWORKS at Leeds Castle in Kent and a visit to the Hallowe'en Zoo are featured in a weekend package at Chilston Park country house hotel near Lenham, not far from Maidstone, on November 7 and 8. The price of £190 a person — with big reductions for children — also includes half-board. Details: 01622 859803.

EUROPE

FAMILY self-catering holidays in Minorca are available at discounts for a week from October 17, which includes half-term for many. Style Holidays is offering packages from Gatwick in named accommodation for £119 for adults and £89 for children. Details: 0181-568 1999.

A CHOICE of Turkish resorts is on offer from October 20 for a week from £239 a person with Accommodation Overseas. Fly from Gatwick to Dalaman and stay in two-star hotels in Marmaris, Dalyan or Oludeniz. Details: 0181-977 2084.

GET yourself and friends to Cyprus and you can book luxury apartments sleeping up to five people at the Royal Complex for £205 a week this month and £140 a week from November 1. The Royal Complex is in Paphos and includes a pool, bar and small restaurant. Details: 00 357 6247 112.

November 1 from Leisure Direction. The price is based on four travelling together, taking two rooms. Details: 0181-324 3030.

FOR THOSE who want to stay in the George V, the luxurious hotel, before it closes for refurbishment on November 1, Kirker Holidays is offering a two-night package from £484 a person, including first-class Eurostar travel, room upgrade, breakfast, welcome champagne and a cruise on the Seine. Details: 0171-231 3333.

AUTUMN in rural France can be enjoyed at a discount on some VFB Cottage Holidays if booked before October 20. Offers include a week in a traditional cottage in Provence from £349 for a family of five, with Channel crossings. Details: 01242 240340.

A WEEK-LONG tour for the independent cyclist, following the Danube as it winds its way through upper and lower Austria to Vienna, is on offer this month from the Imaginative Traveller. Priced at £470, including bike hire, transport of luggage, B&B and train for the last leg. Flights are extra. Details: 0181-742 8612.



Seven-night Jordan Discovery Tours, departing October 19 and 26, and November 2, 9, 16 and 23, include visits to Petra (pictured), Amman, the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley. The price, £759, includes flights, transfers, accommodation and entrance fees. Details: Destination Red Sea, 0181-440 9900

PLANNING

To visit the United States in the next eight weeks? Premier Holidays has special deals to Washington and California. Three nights' B&B in the capital costs from £353 a person, with Thursday flights from Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester. A week's fly-drive to West Coast destinations costs from £415. Details: 01223 516688.

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Street smarts in the myths of time

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown sees

Disney tackle the classics, and come up with a treat called *Hercules*

You all know Hercules. Nice lad, son of Zeus. Bulging calves, jutting chin, weird triangular feet. Friends call him Herc. At least, this is the chap who takes the lead in Disney's latest cartoon, *Hercules*. Scholars of Greek mythology may tut-tut, but they were not the audience the directors John Musker and Ron Clements had in mind. This is a movie styled and paced to suit frantic young minds, for whom even the 1970s are ancient times.

The point is made at the beginning, when a serious commentator is kicked off the soundtrack by gospel-singing Muses adorning a frieze on a museum vase. Then we are whisked to Mount Olympus to celebrate Herc's birth. Then we meet his adversary Hades, God of the Underworld, blue head flaming like a gas jet, sardonic words tumbling out of his mouth, courtesy of James Woods. "I haven't been this choked up," he sneers, "since I got a lump of moussaka stuck in my throat."

Wit, as you can see, does not scale the Olympian heights, although the film's visual design offers something different from the norm. Gerald Scarfe was hired as production designer and, while there is no room for the extreme savagery of his political cartoons, enough bulbous noses, spindly limbs and ornamental details crop up to remind us of his presence.

Several voice artists make their own mark. Woods' taunting tones provide the perfect accompaniment as Hades tries to stop Hercules regaining his place among the gods. Danny DeVito appears inseparable from Philoctetes (call him Phil), satyr, sidekick and personal trainer who helps Herc to prove his mettle. Other contributions are more mundane; none more so than that of Alan Menken and David Zippel, composer and lyricist, whose songs are obstinately unmemorable.

The dialogue, at least, always tries to be bright and breezy. "Thanks for everything, Herc, it's been a real slice," says a rescued damsel in distress. The same hip tone informs the in-jokes, which include digs at the merchandising phenomenon. Disney knows this subject well: more than 300 companies and retailers have been licensed to sell *Hercules* products. Forget its distorted reflection of ancient Greek myths, this movie — flip, fast and brazen — puts today's world in a nutshell.

Nil by Mouth, written and directed by Gary Oldman, presents another picture of modern life. It is not pretty. The setting is a grim housing estate in South London (Oldman's stamping ground). The language is rough, the action rougher. There is nothing to hope for: days pass in petty crime, drug use and rampaging. Noses get bitten, apartments trashed, and a pregnant wife is kicked by her alcohol-soaked husband. It rains a lot, too.

But there is more to Oldman's directorial debut than a celebration of misery. Oldman knows these people — the film is pointedly dedicated to the memory of his father — and he refuses to act the moralist. He gives them a community spirit, and allows the family's grandmothers to sing *Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man* even when the men include Ray Winstone's husband, violent to a psychotic degree. As in the films of Oldman's artistic mentors, Alan Clarke and John Cassavetes, the camera stays close to faces, observing with affection, not distaste.

The actors are strong enough to take the intense scrutiny. Winstone is powerfully unsettling. Kathy Burke unnerves in a different way as the wife so wearied by life that even an enforced miscarriage from her husband's boot fails to stir much of a fight. Overlong it may be (the early scenes particularly need trimming), but this is a film of startling power and compassion.

Remaining in the same country, if definitely not the same mood, *House of America* is a trip to a dead-end town in Wales. Not that the characters would acknowledge actually living there. Teenagers Sid and Gwenny (Steven Mackintosh and Lisa Palfrey) dream about going on the road across the States, like their hero, Jack Kerouac. Mam, clouded by mental illness, lives in her own world. As for Dad, he flew the nest 15 years before, and is believed to be in America itself, although

Hercules

Odeon Leicester Square
U, 91 mins
Greek mythology
is Disneyfied

Nil by Mouth

Virgin Haymarket
18, 139 mins
Gary Oldman's searing
directorial debut

House of America

ABC Shaftesbury Ave
15, 96 mins
Ambitious kitchen sink
fantasy from Wales

The Game

Empire, 18, 128 mins
Michael Douglas caught
in a practical joke

Tempress Moon

Curzon West End
14, 116 mins
Chen Kaige's
opium dream

Pusher

ICA Cinema, 18, 105 mins
Gritty drama
from Denmark

Father's Day

Warner West End
12, 99 mins
Robin Williams and
Billy Crystal in a futile
hunt for laughs

with Marc Evans's version of Edward Thomas's play it is wise not to take such things for granted.

This ambitious film initially beguiles with its portrait of restless, likeable kids using the American Dream to colour their bleak lives. There is also a rock soundtrack to enjoy. But the mix of realism, fantasy and melodrama grows unsatisfactory, the film's dramatic focus grows blurred, and Sian Phillips has her work cut out making her mad Mam a figure worth our understanding. This is Evans's first feature, after much television work: for all its faults, it should serve as a respectable calling card.

True to its title, David Fincher's *The Game* delights in play-acting. Consider the predicament of Michael Douglas, a successful San Francisco businessman whose hollow life proceeds like clockwork. Until, that is, his 48th birthday, when his brother (Sean Penn) hands him a gift certificate for an outfit called Consumer Recreation Services. "We're like an experiential Book of the Month Club," their front man purrs. Once locked into the Game, as they call it, Douglas is chased black and blue and discredited in business. He loses his house, and almost his life.

Fincher directed last year's hit thriller *Seven* and is at his



Hades, ruler of the Underworld and enemy of our eponymous hero in *Hercules*. He could, of course, have been called Pluto, but every Disney fan knows that Pluto is a dog

happiest with in-your-face artifice. And, for a while, this teasing movie has the audience in its grip. Douglas's bemusement becomes ours as action set pieces yank him this way and that, and cyberspace demons undermine his identity. (The writers, John Brancato and Michael Ferris, like this trick: remember their previous opus, *The Nerd*.) Then, as the film soldiers on towards the two-hour mark, you feel the callous bravura of Fincher's visual style and the script's conceits. The movie ends up just like the Game itself: an elaborate practical joke, more cruel than entertaining.

By the nature of things, the actors do not have much scope for fireworks, although Penn makes the most of his brief appearances and Deborah Kara Unger is nicely enigmatic as the woman who leads Douglas. After playing *The Game* you will need relaxation. So how about *Tempress Moon*, a film drenched in an opium haze from Chen Kaige, the director of *Farewell My Concubine*. The story has its knots, even in the streamlined version released in the West (14 minutes shorter than the original). But there is nothing to stop us basking in the opulence of 1920s Shanghai and environs, where drugged

beauties lie swathed in luscious fabrics under swaying lanterns. Nothing to stop us stargazing, either. There are two to gawp at, both luminaries of Hong Kong and beyond. Leslie Cheung takes the male role, a Shanghai gigolette who haunts the decaying house of an aristocratic family, where he lived as a child. But the camera only has eyes for Gong Li, head of the household, who makes the kind of grand movie entrance once reserved for Greta Garbo, and hogs the close-ups, misty-eyed with tears.

In theory, Chen undertook this material to muse on the parallels between the confusions of the Republic's early years and the contradictions of modern China. In practice, few parallels pop through the heady melodrama. This is a film of visual wonders (praise be to cameraman Christopher Doyle, one of the world's best); but little meaning or relevance lingers. The Danish film *Pusher* is a gritty, quasi-documentary look at seven days in the life of a drugs pusher. He is Nicolas Winding Refn: a name to watch and spell correctly. The pusher starts off cocky and successful; he ends desperate.

ly chasing debts to save himself from the mortuary slab. The hand-held camera lurches from face to face, a trick too many directors seem to think induces instant reality. But there is nothing phony about the film's stark power.

When a film stars both Robin Williams and Billy Crystal, which one do you laugh at? The answer in *Father's Day* is neither. This tepid remake of a French farce, *Les Compères*, casts them, respectively, as a failed writer and high-powered lawyer faced with the prospect that they have fathered a teenage son. Weak jokes and unearned sentiment combine to produce one of the year's most unnecessary offerings.

Oldman triumph

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

■ NIL BY MOUTH

Leslie Isiah Thomas, 19: Ray Winstone will break your heart. Gary Oldman has given us a beautifully observed film.

Melita Miletic, 18: Kathy Burke is good, but best actress at Cannes? I think not. John Osmond, 19: Not an easy film to watch. A highly authentic representation of council estate life.

Dominic Young, 18: A film that will stay with you for

many weeks. Don't forget to take the Kleenex.

■ FATHER'S DAY

Leslie: Those comedy heavyweights Robin Williams and Billy Crystal should have provided much mirth. They did not.

Melita: A laugh a day. Stay clear. John: Mel Gibson's brief comic turn as a heavily pierced rocker supplies the film's only fun.

Dominic: Williams is at times quite moving: shame nobody told him he was doing a comedy.

■ THE GAME

Leslie: Confused? You will be. Unusually for Hollywood this film is over-written and complicated. Melita: Michael Douglas's best performance to date. John: Not a work of art, but ace, chilling entertainment. Dominic: Sean Penn is, as always, dead good. Not a bad movie, just a confusing one.

NEW ON VIDEO

PRINCESS DIANA

COMMEMORATIVE VIDEOS WHICH do you pick, the BBC's *Diana: A Celebration* or *Diana: The People's Princess* from ITN? The BBC's, narrated mainly by Moira Stuart, adopts the dull, reverential line, begins with the funeral and works backwards. ITN's, narrated by Trevor McDonald, accepts Diana, Princess of Wales more as a flawed human being, and builds up to the funeral after a wider portrait of her life. At 78 minutes, ITN's is better value than the BBC's (only 55 minutes long), while neither includes Elton John singing *Candle in the Wind* in Westminster Abbey.

SECRETS & LIES

VCI/Film Four, 15, 1996 CLAUSTROPHOBIC suburban lives have long been Mike Leigh's speciality, but in this film, now available to buy, he treats them with new compassion. Brenda Blethyn is the sad, nervous mother, faced with a skeleton from the past: the black daughter (Marianne Jean-Baptiste) she gave up for adoption. Shifts in tone cause awkwardness at times, and some scenes need the editor's scissors. But there is real maturity here, and a refreshing tenderness to Leigh's treatment of lives in pain.

STAR WARS TRILOGY

Fox Guild, U THE Special Editions of all three *Star Wars* movies hit the shops. You can buy them singly or as a package, in two different versions (standard ratio or widescreen). Each cassette includes behind-the-scenes footage, featuring interviews with George Lucas and the technicians who helped to clean up the soundtracks and enhance the visuals.

THE SUNCHASER

Warner, 15, 1996 A PRIGGISH doctor (Woody Harrison) is forced at gunpoint to take Jon Seda's young prisoner, dying of cancer, to a sacred Navajo mountain. Director Michael Cimino tries to turn this road movie into a report on the state of the nation. He fills the screen with clever arrangements of rock, sand and Tarmac, and some choice visual conceits. But the script cannot sustain such fancy treatment, and the clichés multiply as doc and patient make their journey from LA's ghettos to the peaks of Colorado. Available to rent.

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AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Five operas written by Ralph Vaughan Williams are getting a fresh airing. Mike Ashman reports

Glorious operatic Albion

The 20th century has not been over-kind to the operas of Ralph Vaughan Williams. By this year, the 125th anniversary of the composer's birth, some are being made. On the initiative of Stephen Connock, chairman of the Vaughan Williams Society, a "Vision of Albion" Festival has been put together under the conductor Richard Hickox, who led the first ever complete cycle of the symphonies in a parallel 1995 event. With sponsorship for performances and recordings (in Hickox's ongoing series of British music for Chandos), three orchestras, and the Royal Opera's interest in re-examining work to which it gave birth, all five main operas receive an outing.

Aders to the Sea (half an hour or so of concentrated masterpiece), says Hickox, the Falstaff opera *Sir John in Love* ("absolutely delicious", says Ursula Vaughan Williams, the composer's widow), and *The Pilgrim's Progress* ("no hero in and no love duets and it's what I want", said the composer) will have performances with varying degrees of movement. *The Pilgrim* — the last and grandest opera — will be staged by Joseph Ward, director of a fêted Manchester student production, and recorded for the second time professionally.

The Poisoned Kiss ("marvelous music but dialogue beyond hope" says Michael Kennedy, the composer's biographer) will be heard in substantial excerpts, as was (last week) part of *Hugh the Drover* in the form of the suite *A Oswald Romance* made under Vaughan Williams's supervision. Hickox, Connock, Ursula Vaughan Williams and Kennedy are unanimous not just in their enthusiasm for the music of these operas, but in a desire to proselytise their knowledge. But if this repertoire is so "seriously neglected" (Connock), why has it not been through till now?

Ursula Vaughan Williams believes her husband made a gear mistake in trying out so many pieces in student surroundings. *Hugh, Sir John, Rlers* and scenes from *The Pilgrim* were all premiered by the Royal College of Music, a

"wrong connotation" for the works, she thinks. This idea came from Vaughan Williams's beloved "musical citizenship policy", says Kennedy. He loved to see his works performed by amateur or semi-professional forces, but the impression clung that they were intended for amateurs. Also, the librettos were often problematic when written by other hands, or dramatic in a way that needed careful handling. "The *Pilgrim* is not a theatrical piece in terms of, say, *Grimes*", says Hickox. But he is confident of finding "the dramatic impetus" to make it "vivid and not churchy".

There were also production problems at a postwar Royal Opera House that felt unconfident about British work. "Bloody Covent Garden," says Ursula Vaughan Williams of the 1951 premiere, "chose a bad producer (the famous Chaucer scholar, Neville Coghill) who then chose a terrible designer."

Connock believes that "the less cynical, gentler age of the late 1990s" is ready again for "more melody-based, populist" opera. He points out that high quality British champions are in the field again, mentioning alongside Hickox such conductors as Andrew Davis and Matthew Best, and singers like Bryn Terfel (in the concert hall) and what Hickox calls "the cream of young British talent" in the casts of these opera performances.

There are other reasons why a new time might have come for a form that meant so much to Vaughan Williams. Enthusiasm for the Royal Opera's recent revival of *The Midsummer Marriage* suggests that Sir Michael Tippett's desire for opera to have "a greater percentage of the marvellous to a smaller amount of the everyday" is more widely understood in 1996 than in 1955. This new mood — the return of romanticism, a freer imagination encouraged by the fantasy film industry, whatever it may be — should certainly increase receptivity to *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Its range of symbolic and metaphysical settings should hold fewer terrors for today's audiences and production teams.



His supporters believe the music of Vaughan Williams will be better received in the late Nineties than in the Fifties

Unfortunately, British opera managements are addicted to pigeonholing composers. The variety of Vaughan Williams's operatic output confuses and defies such thinking. It is no accident that *Riders* — a takeover of an established play by J.M. Synge — with its sound world akin to Bartók or Ravel, is the only score to date to establish a threshold in the British repertoire. The remaining works fit no such easy glove. *Hugh the Drover* probably suffered more from its war-delayed premiere than from Harold Child's stiff libretto. If it had been performed alongside Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers*, Holst's *Savitri* or some Holbrooke (time for a Hickox rediscovery?), there might have been more of the "British" opera school that Vaughan Williams feared would never happen.

In addition to the operas, the Vision of Albion Festival visits Clerkenwell for a trio of chamber music concerts in November, and is at the Barbican Cinema this month for screenings and discussions on some of the films the composer scored and reused in the concert hall: *Scott of the Antarctic*, *The England of Elizabeth*. An enlarged version of Wilfred Mellers's book *Vaughan Williams and the Vision of Albion* and a new collection of essays edited by Lewis Foreman appear in literary support. Meanwhile Connock contemplates a third festival of the composer's choral music — "at least 30 pieces no one ever hears".

Richard Hickox conducts Sir John in Love on Sunday (3.30pm) at the Barbican (0171-638 8891)

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: McCartney, Gershwin and some serious Mozart

ORCHESTRAL

Hilary Finch

■ PAUL MCCARTNEY *Standing Stone* LSO/Foster EMI 5 56484 2, no stars £14.49 ON "THE basis that 'the Pharaohs didn't write, they employed people to do the job for them', Paul McCartney has hired several composers to help him with his four-movement symphonic poem. His tunes were first computer-notated by Steve Lodder, then decoded by David Matthews. The work was architect-designed by John Harle, while Richard Rodney Bennett was "overall supervisor of orchestration". So credit is given where credit is due.

In his search for his Celtic roots, McCartney sounds intermittently diverted, often defeated. To be equal to the task is asking a lot, as Milton, Dante, Beethoven and Mahler discovered before him; and there has to be a little more to a symphony than shortlived, formulaic melody, anodyne harmony and the odd jig. Abstraction is simply not McCartney's forte. I wish he had made a song-cycle out of his own good *Standing Stone* Poem printed in the booklet. Music unsupported by words is extremely difficult to write, and one day McCartney may (or may not) like to have a chat with his fellow Celt, James MacMillan, to discuss some of the ways in which it is done. Meanwhile *Standing Stone* is a sad monument: it is tired, it is middle-aged, it is, essentially, background music.

INSTRUMENTAL

Barry Millington

■ GERSHWIN *I Got Rhythm* Aalborg Symphony/Marshall Virgin VM 5 61478 2 ***. £10.49 ONE would not normally turn to Denmark for a Gershwin ensemble, but with the irrepressible Wayne Marshall in command, the results are admirably idiomatic.

The first and last movements of the Piano Concerto in F career along at hair-raising speeds, and the Aalborgers toss off those syncopated jazz rhythms as though to the manner born. Marshall is of course wholly in his element here, though just occasionally it seems as if his virtuosity is allowed to run away with him. The *Rhapsody in Blue* and less familiar *Second Rhapsody* are wild and boisterous, with the right amount of

OPERA

John Higgins

■ MOZART *Don Giovanni* Fleming/Murray/Terfel/Pertusi/LPO/Soli Decca 455 500-2 (three CDs) *** £38.99 THE sunlit Mozart of Soli's recent years gives way to darker shadows in *Don Giovanni*, recorded at the Festival Hall a year ago. All the old force is there, especially in the finales to both acts. But the speeds are often slow and the smiles are few. This is a serious *Giovanni*.

Bryn Terfel's *Giovanni* is an aggressive Jack-the-Lad, fine when he is on the hunt or fighting for his life. He is less successful as the suave seducer and here Michele Pertusi, his sardonic and polished Leporello, could show him a thing or two. Both are expert in each other's roles. Renée Fleming's Anna is outstanding throughout and Monica Groop is a toothsome and sweetly accurate Zerlina. But Ann Murray's Elvira is a disappointment: plenty of character but too often a shrewish edge to the voice. By contrast Herbert Lippert's vocally well-schooled Ottavio lacks dramatic thrust.

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Pared right down to the singing bone

CONCERT

Hallé/Nagano
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KENT NAGANO and the Hallé Orchestra are making a niche for themselves, it seems, by restoring discarded versions of works better known in revised form — such as the four-act *Billy Budd* they performed and recorded last May, and now their original three-movement version of Mahler's *Das klagende Lied*.

But the opportunity to hear this remarkable score was welcome. There is scarcely one sound or gesture — bar those with direct Wagnerian antecedents — that cannot be traced into future works by Mahler. Obviously, early works such as the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and the First Symphony most often come to mind, but some of the musical symbolism retained its significance for decades after that. He would never again demand as many as six harps: he sensibly reduced the requirement to two. And though he remained firmly attached to the offstage

band, he would never again present one in a key a semitone away from that of the instruments on the platform. Another feature he removed was a boy's voice to represent the singing bone (Mahler's text owes much to the Brothers Grimm) that reveals the bridegroom's guilty secret at the royal wedding feast in the last movement. Listening to this Hallé performance, in which the treble part proved too much for four boys, one can see why. Marina Shaguch, no doubt regretted losing this section from the soprano part she is used to. In fact, although Ludwiga Rappe and Hakan Hagegard sang well, and although the orchestral playing was competent and often effective, much work must be done before the performance is recorded.

GERALD LARNER

Artists to their fingertips

JOHN HIATT has had his songs covered by everyone from Bob Dylan to Iggy Pop and from Willy Nelson to Phila Abdul. He has also survived Little Village, a supergroup whose cohabitants included Nick Lowe and Ry Cooder.

POP

The plush decor and pitch-perfect acoustics of Dublin's Olympia always seem to bring the best out of performers, and so it proved with Hiatt and his band, the Nashville Queens.

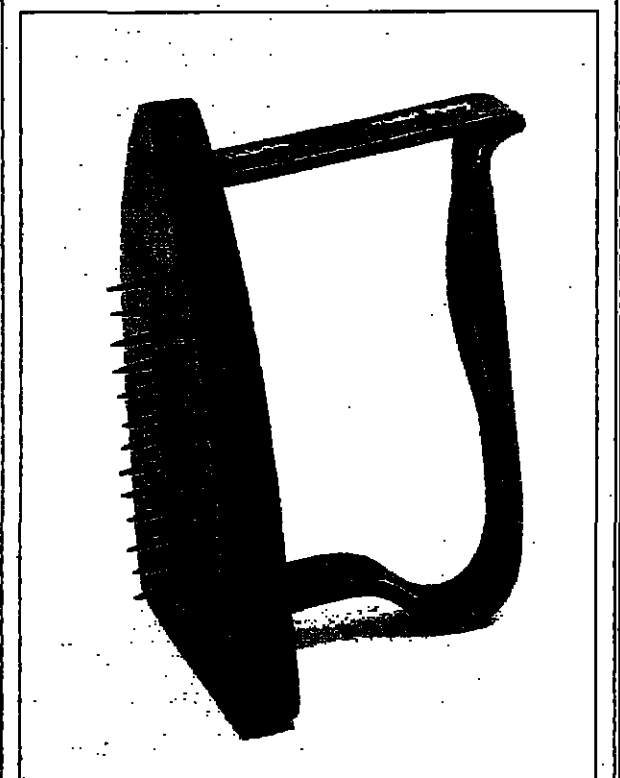


Of course, top breeders have always recommended Nashville-based players, and the quality of the musicianship on show was quite staggering. When you have got guys of this calibre together on stage, there is always the danger that the show will descend into a self-indulgent muso love-in. But David Immergluck (guitar), Davey Faragher (bass) and Gary Ferguson (drums) were as tight-knit a unit as one could hope for, their technical mastery embellishing but never enveloping the songs.

The evocative bedroom angst of *Alone in the Dark* opened the set, with Hiatt alone with his acoustic guitar, his deep, world-weary rasp sounding as if it swam all the way from the Mississippi. Thereafter, though, his band helped to keep the blues at arm's length, none more so than Immergluck, who may look like a roadie for a heavy metal band but whose dexterity on acoustic and electric guitars, mandolin and pedal steel was exceptional.

Indeed, the diversity of instrumentation complemented the variety of musical styles. If rhythm'n'blues is the core material of Hiatt's stylistic tapestry, it is also interwoven with the threads of folk, rock and country.

On top of that, the wry wit and gritty edge of Hiatt's lyrics are always apparent. The stirring ballad *Lipsick Sunset*, for example, strikes just the right balance between the bitter and the sweet.



TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's still lifes

■ MAN RAY: *Gift*, c. 1958 (replica of 1921 original)

EIGHT years before Man Ray made the first version of *Gift*, Marcel Duchamp decided that ready-made objects could become works of art. Man Ray agreed with this heretical proposition, and duly purchased an ordinary flatiron in 1921. But unlike his friend Duchamp, he could not leave it alone. The flatiron was painted, and inscribed with a title and signature on the handle. Above all, its base was violated with 13 tacks. Glued on head downwards, they jut menacingly from the iron's bottom. An instrument normally meant to smooth and enhance is transformed into a vicious weapon. The tacks stick out in a martial row, ready to attack, pierce and tear.

□ *Objects of Desire* opens at the Hayward (0171-960 4242) today, and is sponsored by BMW in association with The Times

TOMORROW: Joan Miró's *Table with Glove* (1921)

NICK KELLY

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AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

All dressed up and nowhere to go: Hardy Amies laments the evils of the catwalk in an overview of the fashionable male

Our good old friend *The Oxford English Dictionary* says that *fashion* "is conventional usage in dress, mode of life etc. especially as observed in the upper circles of society; conformity to this".

In the first five chapters of Colin McDowell's book there is an attempt to sketch in points of fashion in dress. *Les Incroyables*—18th-century fops whose high collars nearly hid their faces—are allowed to have been of English style, as is Beau Brummell. Eventually, on page 63, we are presented with the perfect gentleman in the person of Lord Raffles in the year of 1902.

We are then treated to two pieces of information on tailoring and cutting cloth. And brought to a gasp by two pages on military style. The first, of course, is Tasso's painting of Capt. Burnaby in 1870. To balance this nonchalant elegance we have a grotesque photograph of someone called Jimi Hendrix in 1967.

But they are mere repeats of all histories of fashion. We see royalty dressed up in pictures we have all

Striving for style is never in vain

seen. The author is obviously obsessed with catwalk clothes. It would have been witty if he had noticed that the Henry VIII's and the Sun King's all dressed for the catwalk display at Court.

But catwalk shows are the enemy of good fashion. When I entered the London fashion trade in 1934, the leaders were Norman Hartnell and Victor Stiebel, joined a little later by the Irish-Parisian, Edward Molyneux. I was a junior. But I had a "house" model. All the serious houses had these. When mildly asked to see the suits (coats and skirts, please) the house girls

THE MAN OF FASHION
Peacock Males and Perfect Gentlemen
By Colin McDowell
Thames & Hudson, £29.95
ISBN 0 500 01797

put down their knitting and gave the customer a private showing, with everything worn at the level of the floor of a private house. Catwalk shows give a totally strange view, a look upwards of some distance, totally alien to that of the life of the customer.



Swells and dandies: Cruikshanks's satire of male vanity (1821)

We all know now that catwalk shows are only to advertise a name, which can be put on articles like handbags and lipsticks; nothing wrong in that. But one must be amazed when a whole look is ultimately devoted to the practice. My dress house in London is in its

book is surprisingly unfair on London's clothes today for men: English handmade suits are still among the finest in the world. The Italians, who have little sense of tradition, spend a lot of money advertising and staging catwalk shows. Their clothes are probably the best "factory-made" clothes in the world. But we English fell down when lighter-weight cloth became desired.

Mr McDowell speaks little of the suit. He fails to point out that within the lifespan of the modern suit design—now nearly 200 years—it is possible to have many totally correct variations. The suit shown on page 139 and attributed to the Italian Litrico is in fact the Scottish gillie suit worn by Prince Albert for shooting in Scotland.

I spent a lot of time in Venice in the Fifties, where it was wonderful to see the care the men took to appear clean-shaven, their clothes pressed. Also one saw at once that the "popo"—the bottom—was honoured and not just passed over quickly as it was by prudish English tailors. Colin McDowell praises the German Boss. So do I.

His well-made suits follow the rules of English tailoring as it was in 1660.

Colin McDowell makes no mention of manners: that it is very bad manners to appear for the first time as a guest in a house without a tie unless your hostess tells you to come "casual". Mr McDowell also overlooks how well-dressed workmen now are. The sum of this summer has produced some stunning torsos. Gone is gentility for both sexes. I can remember crossing sweepers in bowler hats.

The cover of the book is a warning. I cannot imagine where such an outfit could be worn. It is pure fancy dress—The Leopard Man. Does the book claim to record the clothes of these times? Will it be quoted in 50 years' time? Is it to guide the young and instruct the aged? It will go down in my view as the ugliest book on fashion published in this century.

Sir Hardy Amies's *The Englishman's Suit* is published by Quercus, priced £16; a German edition will be launched next month.

An artist on her own terms

The serious question raised by this biography of Vigée Lebrun is an aesthetic one: What makes a good painting?

Throughout her working life Louise Vigée Lebrun was famous. She was born in 1755 into a painter family of no great renown; her early talent was prodigious and by her twenties she had her salon and a growing number of wealthy clientele. For the next 60 years she painted the portraits of the titled and rich of Europe. Her pictures cost more than those of David, who did not like her but openly respected her work.

As a woman she was not allowed formal training. Male critics of her work complained that she could not draw. Nevertheless, she became the foremost portrait painter of her day and one of the four women admitted to the Académie. She learnt the mechanics of her trade from family and friends, and, as she admitted, from the marvellous supply of

social order she herself transgressed.

Were these contradictions muddled thinking or a straightforward selfishness, that needed wealth and power around her in order to make money of her own, or was it her instinct that the arts need stability in order to thrive?

Whatever the reason, her uncritical portrayals of the great and the good, her desire to flatter and please her sitters in paint, is used against her, then and now, by those who dislike her work or her. David called her "a servant of quality".

Michael Levey, in *Painting and Sculpture in France 1700-1789*, dismisses her. Angelica Gooden makes no wild claims for her subject. Hers is not the kind of history that revises neglect by rewriting the evidence. The facts themselves suggest we look again. If we say that Vigée Lebrun was simply fashionable at the time, do we mean that Post-Revolution France and Victorian England were not subject to fashion? Do

we mean that later judgments are always objective? Can we dismiss her fame across Europe as counting for nothing?

Being rather conservative myself, I am not one of those who continually wish to reconfigure the canon by throwing out the famous names and fanfaring the unknown. It is not art that is relative. It is our

attitude to it. It is ourselves we need to sift and weigh when we make our judgments. So often it is ourselves we are talking about, our bias, our fashions and not the painting or the book or the music at all.

So what do we see when we look at her pictures? They are virtuoso pieces. Some of them, like Countess Golovine, in the Barber Institute at Birmingham, are exceptional: they possess an energy and spirit which technique alone cannot counterfeit. They are worth looking at. She is worth knowing.

I blame the Romantics. The concept of genius, the man (and it is a man) unmatched, unrivalled, above all, original has conditioned our ideas about art and how to think about it since the 18th century. We are so preoccupied with genius that we no longer know how to give due to the large body of good work that has always been made and that is vital to culture. Modern criticism veers from the iconoclastic "we're all geniuses anyhow" to the fashionable cynicism of refusing status to anyone. Both doctrines are absurd. This clever and timely biography of Vigée Lebrun—who now has her own room in the Louvre—might make us pause long enough to forget the categories and enjoy the pictures.

Jeanette Winterson

THE SWEETNESS OF LIFE

A Biography of Elisabeth Louise Vigée Lebrun

By Angelica Gooden
André Deutsch, £19.99
ISBN 0 233 99216



A woman's direct gaze: Vigée Lebrun's portrait of Countess Varvara Nikolaevna Golovine

Time to put away childish things

Claire Messud

HERE ON EARTH

By Alice Hoffman
Chatto & Windus, £14.99
ISBN 0 7011 6692 4

HERE on Earth, Alice Hoffman's twelfth, takes as its setting a fictive New England hamlet called Jenkintown, a community still cohesive and remote, a place where memories are long and outsiders destined to remain the label.

March Murray, the novel's protagonist, has returned to her childhood home for the first time in 19 years. Leaving her professor husband (also a refugee from Jenkintown) in California, her sullen teenage daughter, Gwen in tow, she plans to stay a week. She has come for the funeral of the housekeeper who raised her, and to sort through the artefacts of her youth.

But Jenkintown, for all its rusticity, harbours turbulent forces that threaten the stability of March's small family. There is her estranged brother, Alan, whose ruined life has left him a "drunken hermit" covering in the local marketplace; there is her adolescent son, Hank, whom March has never met; and above all, there is Hollis, her first and abiding love, brought into the Murray home as a charity case when March was 11, his past and his origins a mystery, his character tempestuous. When March was 17 Hollis abandoned Jenkintown to seek his fortune, and she forsook him only after three years of waiting.

Hollis, now 42, has long since returned to the town in triumph as its wealthiest resident; but the source of his riches is shadowy and he remains a loner and an outsider, tacitly disliked. His only ally is Hank, whom he has raised; his one remaining desire, to reclaim March.

What ensues is inevitable from the outset: March and Hollis resume the course of their passion, while Gwen and Hank find solace together from the loneliness of adolescence.

The course of true love rarely runs smooth, and in this instance it runs amok: the darkness of the novel's vision is at odds with the cosiness of

Hoffman's storytelling, and March, like her brother before her, seems a character doomed to disaster.

Essentially a Gothic tale, *Here on Earth* is marred in part by its children's-book prose ("on some crisp October afternoons the whole world smelled like pie"; "The dog tail wags like mad against the Judge's overcoat"); and in part by its implausibility. Alan's extreme dissolution, Hollis's



Hoffman: love run amok

inexplicable menace, Gwa's complicity, March's lack of conscience and her husband's curious passivity—all provoke scepticism about the unfolding events.

The former flaw is responsible for the latter: readers will, after all, succumb eagerly to illusion if it is carefully constructed. But there is a complicity in Hoffman's narration, as if she doubted our intelligence or at the least, presumed our goodwill, and the result is an unshakable aura of absurdity around March Murray's trials—and, in this reader, at least, a blind indifference to her fate.

But as to gossip, La Stupenda won't sing

Claire Bloom

A PRIMA DONNA'S PROGRESS

The Autobiography of Joan Sutherland
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81321 8



Sutherland: guarded

For the title of her autobiography, Joan Sutherland has chosen *Prima Donna's Progress*. A triumphant progression she certainly makes, across the stage of every great opera house in the world. The preparation for each great role she sang, the costumes she delighted in, the quality of the other singers, all is meticulously recorded. *La Stupenda* appears in all her stage glory.

Of the woman herself we learn very little. If there did exist moments of personal anguish along this primrose path, she keeps them strictly to herself. We, her readers in this age of wholesale confession and blood guilt, cannot help but feel dissatisfied.

The death of her father, when Sutherland was a child, could not have left her unscathed: "Death was something I soon had to cope with... for on my sixth birthday my father died, on returning from his morning swim... he had not been feeling too well... and mother had told him not to go down to the beach and face the climb back but I was anxious to try my new bathers so he decided to go."

He died in his wife's arms and, although Sutherland doesn't tell us this, it would appear this must have been in full sight of his young daughter.

Although Sutherland confides "I remember the heartbreak still," she tells us little more of the impact this calamity must have had on the psyche of an intelligently alert young child. All we are told is "that, whatever happens, life goes on". So this gawky girl with the determined jaw set out on her inevitable path towards a brilliant career.

Sutherland was born with perfect vocal cords; she soon developed an innate love of music and was fortunate in having a gifted and supportive mother who recognised her daughter's talents, and knew how to nurture a young voice.

In the choice of her life partner, fate smiled again. Richard Bonynge was to become her coach, her musical mentor, her chief conductor, her husband... Their partnership will be remembered as one of the most fruitful and mutually supportive in musical history.

All this is related honestly and clearly; but for any further insight into the world she was to make her own, she is reticent. Although unfailingly appreciative of her colleagues, Sutherland gives no interesting details about individual performers. We are introduced to the young Plácido Domingo: "The role of Arturo was sung

better. "Luciano Pavarotti and I sang together... Richard had heard Luciano sing an audition in 1963 and suggested he be engaged... the rest is history."

In writing of the social sphere to which, as an international prima donna, she had access, Sutherland is equally reserved. "At the house of Noël Coward we met Charlie Chaplin and his wife Oona." (Neither incidentally, listed in the book's index, unlike the Duchess of Windsor, who is.) What did she make of them? Surely there must have been something she could tell us about meeting this extraordinary genius of film and his young and beautiful wife. No comment!

"Had lunch at the Colony and met the Duchess of Windsor... we found the Duchess quite charming... we also admired the Duchess's jewels."

One begins to wonder who could have edited this book; did no one trouble to beseech the author to give her readers a little more information? For opera buffs this must appear unnecessary quibbling. Sutherland's focus is, as many would wish, on the fact of her magnificent career.

Her tone becomes almost a litany: the evocations of roles that had to be learnt (She confesses to a poor memory),

recounting the minutiae of coaching sessions with her husband; recalling the dress rehearsals, the opening nights. She recalls, too, the headpieces that greeted her performances: "The Songbird At Her Peak"; "Stupendous"; "Lucia London Triumph"; "A Norma To Join With The Legends".

La Stupenda takes open delight in her amazing reviews. She is winningly feminine, too, in the pleasure she takes in describing her extravagant stage costumes. We get a strong and complete sense of the immense joy and gratification she found in simply performing.

The *bel canto* repertoire, in which she excelled, had already been revived by her contemporary, the incomparable Maria Callas. Throughout Sutherland's career she had to endure endless comparison with the other great artist of her era.

Callas: *La Divina*. The goddess of tragic opera. A voice ecstatic, full of sexual agony and passion which could touch the very soul of her audience. Callas was a great actress, a superb interpreter, but her vocal instrument sometimes failed to do the bidding of her emotional demands.

Sutherland: *La Stupenda*. A perfect instrument for music.

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Try reading on the t

Slices from a



Caught spying

Michael Binyon finds two new books on the rise and fall of Britain's railways just the ticket for the enthusiastic trainspotter

Try reading on the train

In the three years 1845-47, at the height of railway mania, 425 new railway companies were incorporated in Britain, with a total proposed capital of £213,556,000. This was equal to two thirds of the value of all exports for 1846. By comparison, the value of gold held in the Bank of England in June that year was £16.6 million.

Men made fortunes overnight. Many more lost them — swindled by unscrupulous speculators who talked up the benefits of circuitous lines linking small towns that would never generate enough revenue, or caught up in pyramid schemes paying dividends of at least 10 per cent from capital, even as it was pouring in. Looser fairs, the enduring political credo of Victorian England, ruined any chance of a planned national rail network. Instead it was a case of first come, first served. The pioneering companies began with virtual monopolies, and quickly made money as goods and freight despatch the canals and turnpikes.

But with the nation won over by the marvels of steam locomotion, everyone wanted to join in the boom. All new construction involved the purchase of land, often in the teeth of opposition by the land-owning peers, and so an act of Parliament was needed for each line. The House was soon swamped with proposals, many quite impractical. And in 1848,

RAILWAYMEN, POLITICS AND MONEY

By Adrian Vaughan
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5150 1
THE OXFORD COMPANION TO BRITISH RAILWAY HISTORY
Edited by Jack Simmons and Gordon Biddle
OUP, £45
ISBN 0 19 211697 5

while Europe erupted in revolution, Parliament spent most of its time arguing the merits of this or that harebrained rail project.

Adrian Vaughan has wonderfully brought to life the intrigues, swindles, and sharks of the period. He draws an unsympathetic portrait of George Stephenson: a visionary engineer, admittedly, and a dogged fighter for the right solution, but a rough, mean and unscrupulous man who antagonised many.

He has more time for Hackworth, the brilliant, but now forgotten, locomotive designer, or the upright Huiish, a pioneer of corporate management and one of the few honest men in railway management. The towering figure of the time was George Hudson, who raised huge sums and laid hundreds of miles of track through

outrageous daring, a bullying boorishness combined with vast stamina and tremendous power of organisation. Vaughan has a sneaking admiration for this Robert Maxwell of the railways: but when the crash came, ruining the stock market and abject national contrition for reckless speculation, Hudson was the scapegoat. His shenanigans were exposed and he went into exile in Paris.

When railways began, they were far from safe. They were also insanitary, dirty and uncomfortable. Ruthless competition produced wide divergences: extraordinary luxury on some lines, bankruptcy on others. Vaughan is unsympathetic to the free-for-all, seeing ironic parallels with today's return to private railways. He traces, in encyclopaedic detail, overexpansion and bankruptcy that led to the inevitable amalgamations. But for the fascinating detail of how lines performed, the worst accidents, crime, construction, routes, tunnels, rolling stock, steam design and every aspect of railways — the most successful British industrial invention of all time — the *Oxford Companion* is invaluable. It is written with economy, clarity and encyclopaedic authority: the kind of book any enthusiast should have always at his side for constant reference and enjoyable dipping into.



Paddington Station during the General Strike, 1926. (From *Station to Station* by Steven Parissien published by Phaidon at £39.99)

Slices from a prime cut

History, according to John Major's friends, would always be kinder to the former Prime Minister than his colleagues were. This first authoritative, and authorised, account of Major's Premiership Clio, if not kind, is at least understanding. It is difficult for any author to pass definitive judgement on the Major years while the wounds still gape, which is why Anthony Seldon does not try, but he does present a dispassionate inside account of a troubled administration which seeks to understand and empathise where others find it easy to condemn.

The Major years are destined to be remembered as a coda to the Thatcher decade, as a melancholy *Staying On* after the loss of *The Jewel in the Crown*, and it is against Mrs Thatcher's example that political leadership in Britain is now judged. At the last election both Tony Blair and John Major fought a war of succession to be acknowledged as her real son. Seldon shows that in one respect, at least, Blair was the true heir.

Mrs Thatcher made politics a crusade. For Tony Blair, too, there is a cross on his chest, a valour, and the enemy. John Major had no taste for revolution, no time for ideology. He protested in office that he was a practical politician whose mission was management. And that was his undoing.

Seldon reveals that Major came to office with no vision for Britain and never subsequently acquired one. On the night that he became Prime Minister he attempted to draw up a list of priorities rooted in



Thatcher's sons: Blair and Major, November 1994

Michael Gove

JOHN MAJOR
A Political Life
By Anthony Seldon
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81607 1

childhood experience rather than guided by a philosophical compass.

Influenced by his family's downward mobility in his youth, he made his central ambition the reduction of inflation. As an aim it was, in itself, laudable but limited and in its inflexible pursuit the pound was kept in the straitjacket of the ERM until the humiliation of Black Wednesday.

Seldon's account of that day is gripping, pacy and revelatory. He employs anecdote, analysis and deft narrative control to excellent effect. Seldon's most significant discovery in his account is the news that Major overruled his

Chancellor at lunchtime on Black Wednesday to insist that interest rates rise from 12 to 15 per cent in a forlorn effort to stave off the inevitable ejection.

Major bowed to pressure from the Cabinet's pro-European big beasts, Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke, to go the extra kilometre for the sake of Europe even though the Treasury knew the only beneficiaries would be the speculators.

The other area where the child was the father of the man was Ireland. Seldon reveals that Irish neighbours gave the young Major an affection for the island which encouraged him to make peace a priority. Major, admirably, felt that there should be no more of an acceptable level of violence in Ulster than in Surrey. Regrettably, he chose not to govern Ulster, like Surrey, as fully part of the United Kingdom in accordance with democratic principles.

Seldon provides a comprehensive and, at times, absorbing account of Major's attempts to bring peace to Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, as the collapse of the last IRA ceasefire showed, no amount of grit or honey can make a policy of reconciling irreconcilables work.

In Ireland, and elsewhere, a deliberate eschewal of a governing gameplan, in preference for painstaking work on the detail, marked the Major administration and it also, appropriately, characterises Seldon's book.

Every significant domestic player has been interviewed, and particular attention has been paid to the perspective of the adept Downing Street insiders such as Sarah Hogg, Christopher Meyer and Roderic Lyne. Skilled at process rather than driven by principle, calm *hommes d'affaires* rather than ideological *franc-tireurs*, they were men and women among whom Major felt comfortable and whom he came to impress.

Although Seldon honestly captures the social insecurity of the Boy from Brixton, which led him to detect personal slights in straightforward criticism, the author also succeeds in portraying a Prime Minister who, while no intellectual, was far more intelligent than his detractors maintained. Seldon's account will not convince those detractors, of whom this reviewer is one, who find fault with Major's instincts not his intellect, but as a sympathetic inside account of a decent man adrift, this life provides fascinating reading.

Erica Wagner remembers her favourites on National Poetry Day

Until it trips off the tongue

BY HEART

101 Poems to Remember

Edited and with an Introduction by Ted Hughes

Faber, £7.99

ISBN 0 571 02637 7

BE CAREFUL: people might think you've gone mad. I've decided I don't mind the stares as I walk down the street. Don't you stare at people who talk to themselves? You wonder, don't you, if they're not, well... a little cracked.

But I will confidently assert that I am quite sane. I am not debating with my inner demons, or questioning an angel at my ear. If you walk quite close behind me, you might hear what I say: "God rest that wicked woman / Queen Jezebel, the bitch / Who peeled the clothes from her shoulder-bones / Down to her spent teats..." (It's a sunny day; I feel fine and I swing my arms); or — "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood / And sorry I could not travel both and looked down one as far as I could / To where it bent in the undergrowth." (The sky is grey; I feel a little pensive). I have been memorising poems.

Memory has been called an art, but it is also a tool. It is useful to remember things: where you left the car, your mother's birthday, the number on your passport. Like all tools, it will grow rusty from lack of use, and the 20th-century memory may be in danger of seizing up. When feats of memory — all of Virgil recited backwards, line by line — were practised by ancient orators, their prodigious work was spurred by the knowledge that the poet's words were not available in paperback. Now there is no need to know him by heart. Or is there?

Ted Hughes clearly thinks there is, although he merely informs us briskly that "there are many reasons for learning poems", before launching into the Hughes Method of

the cauldron go... "You're off."

All right, at first it seems a bit of a pain. You have to add your own creativity to that of the poet. But that, as Hughes points out, is just it: the memoriser's input fixes the image far more firmly than numbing repetition. Add to that the "physical momentum of inevitability", the rhythm of the verse, and you have an unbeatable combination. It is noticeable that where rhythm is subtle — Eliot's *La Figlia Che Piange* vs. F.R. Higgins's *Song for the Clatterbones* (which takes on Jezebel) — the task takes longer.

But to return: why undertake the task in the first place? Hughes's choice, if not his introduction, gives a hint. The same names appear again and again: Blake, Frost, Shakespeare, Eliot, Dickinson (is it worth mentioning that, but for Emily D. and one each from Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Stevie Smith — unless we

hold out hope for Anonymous — it is an almost entirely masculine collection? What the heck...). Here, yes, is *Jabberwocky*, but here for the most part is poetry that has become part of what is called the canon: and if you have ever wondered why this is so, try Hughes's method and you will learn.

There is a reason, I discovered, when I took to reciting Robert Frost through Shore-ditch, that such things are not learnt simply "by mind": Hughes's selection will work its way into your blood. And then you may find yourself branching out (or compiling your own selection, as publisher John Murray has in his *Old Chestnuts Warned Up*, John Murray, £9.95), returning to dusty volumes on your shelves, picking up new ones: try something from Paul Muldoon's anthology, *The Faber Book of Beasts*, £14.99 (plenty of images there) or the latest issue of *Index on Censorship*, *Banned Poetry* (£7.99) — spread the word by mouth.

Hughes's little volume is a reminder and a gift. Take his words to heart. And if I see you on the street, muttering under your breath, I promise not to think you mad.

Caught spying behind the curtain

DURING the Second World War the KGB began calling its most important British agents — all young Cambridge graduates recruited in the mid-1930s — "The Five". After the 1960 release of the popular Western, *The Magnificent Seven*, they became known as "The Magnificent Five".

The first of the five to be publicly identified were Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, who fled to Moscow in 1951. After Kim Philby defected in 1963, he was christened the "Third Man" by the media. Anthony Blunt similarly became known as the "Fourth Man" on being unmasked in 1979. The fifth and last to be named was John Cairncross, whose identity was discovered by Oleg Gordievsky, a British agent inside the KGB, and included in the history of the KGB in 1990.

For the *Mail on Sunday* featured a front-page inter-

Christopher Andrew

THE ENIGMA SPY
The Story of the Man Who Changed the Course of World War II

By John Cairncross
Century, £16.99
ISBN 0 7126 7894 0

view with Cairncross: "YES, I'M THE FIFTH MAN". Cairncross's posthumously-published memoir repudiates the interview and denounces the description of him as the Fifth Man. Even his own, somewhat economical account however, confirms the KGB's judgment that he was one of the five leading British agents of his generation.

Of the five, only Cairncross served in the most important of the British wartime intelligence agencies, Bletchley

Park, which broke the German Enigma ciphers and produced the now famous "Ultra" intelligence. Philby, by contrast, was turned down by Bletchley Park. By providing the KGB with "Ultra" intelligence on the Eastern Front, Cairncross became, by his own reckoning "the man who changed the course of World War Two".

Save for "changing the course of World War Two", Cairncross downplays his career as a Soviet agent. He claims that he was "trapped" into recruitment in 1937, though he accepted KGB money soon afterwards. After the war, he says that his contact with the KGB was "merely formal". His controller, Yuri Modin, insists that, on the contrary, he was "overjoyed by the quality" of Cairncross's postwar intelligence.

The most controversial part of Cairncross's career as a Soviet spy concerns his role as private secretary to Lord Hankey, one of Churchill's ministers, from 1940 to 1942. Hankey chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), which discussed plans for the first atomic bomb. Cairncross admits that he "had no difficulty in having access to the secret papers in Hankey's office", and that from June 1941 he regularly passed some

of these papers to his KGB controller. Modin's memoirs say that Cairncross's documents included the first news of the Anglo-American decision to build the atomic bomb. Cairncross denies it. He



Cairncross: "Fifth Man"

claims that SAC minutes which show him as joint secretary are mistaken. Since, however, he had easy access to Hankey's SAC files, it makes little difference whether or not he served as secretary. On current evidence, Cairncross still appears the most likely source of the SAC material which reached Moscow.

The *Enigma Spy* sometimes reads like a textbook case of

psychological denial. Cairncross maintains that he has "nothing to regret". Yet the fact remains that in 1937, in the midst of Stalin's Terror, he misguidedly became the agent of an intelligence service which ran the biggest peace-time gulag in European history.

Cairncross casts around for scapegoats. Top of his list, for "exposing" him in 1990, are Gordievsky and myself, against whom he makes a series of inaccurate allegations. Both MIS and the KGB, he complains, have treated him outrageously.

Cairncross was no stage villain. But he does not quite merit the 1986 tribute by Graham Greene with which he begins his book, praising him as "a man of complete honesty on whose word I would absolutely rely". That was not the view of those colleagues whose papers he passed to Moscow or of the court which in 1982 found him guilty of smuggling currency across the Italian-Swiss border.

Christopher Andrew's most recent book is *For the President's Eyes Only: Secret Intelligence and the American Presidency from Washington to Bush* (HarperCollins, £9.99).

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Now people blow it out of all proportion'

"The Juventus game is totally different, but it has helped psychologically. Everyone keeps talking about this being the biggest game in English football for years, but we are ready for it now. I would happily play the game today. I just want to get on with it."



Goram loses fitness battle

Reinforcements for Northern Ireland have come in the shape of Aaron Hughes, the young Newcastle centre half, Peter Kennedy, the Watford midfielder, and George O'Boyle, the St Johnstone forward.

□ Paul McStay, the former Celtic midfielder, has been given a new job by the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association. McStay will have special responsibility for youth and education.



by County, and Michael Evans, of Southampton, are under consideration to make their international debuts.

SRU has conflict with English clubs

RUGBY UNION

Stumbling start hinders Brittle's peace movement

By MARK SOUSTER

WHEN Cliff Brittle was elected chairman of the management board of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) in July, one of his first actions was to offer an olive branch to sceptical senior clubs who were unconvinced that his new regime at Twickenham would have their interests at heart. A meeting yesterday of the 24 Allied Dunbar Premiership sides, called at Brittle's behest, was unlikely to persuade them that progress was being made.

The gathering took place against a backdrop of dire warnings about the economic health of the game after the decision of one significant investor to pull out of the sport. John Beckwith has sold his £3 million investment in Harlequins to Duncan Saville, an Australian businessman. Beckwith has retained a 10 per cent stake while Saville has also paid another £1 million to the club to become its principal investor.

The RFU described the meeting yesterday as a bridge-building exercise, one in which Brittle, who was joined by Fran Cotton, reinforced his commitment to the clubs and pledged a closer relationship between the two sides. However, after a day of talks over a range of issues — among them money, television rights, the fixture list and player contracts — it was obvious that fundamental



Brittle olive branch

and possibly irreconcilable differences remain. "We've got two separate agendas," one chief executive said. "The bottom line is that the distrust is still there."

The RFU, however, described the meeting as "productive". The desire by the RFU to maintain divisional rugby keeps them at odds with the clubs, who want nothing of it. What they do want, and need, is more money to fund a professional game that is bleeding many dry, as Nigel Wray, the owner of Saracens, conceded yesterday.

Wray said that the clubs wanted the fixture list unravelled, a reduction in the number of pre-Christmas internationals and a condensed five nations' championship, in

order to make more Saturdays available for an expanded first division.

The top clubs are being forced to shut down on nine lucrative Saturdays," Wray, who pledged his continued support to Saracens, said. "It is a crazy system and if we don't get it right, then all the leading clubs will go bust."

"We cannot, as a professional sport, limp along like this. No one in the game realised what kind of escalation in costs we would have to deal with. Obviously I regret my losses, but we could be in a healthy position in five years if we get the right leadership."

Collectively, the 12 first division clubs lost almost £15 million last year, much of it in paying the inflated wages of overseas players brought in to raise the profile of the sport. All parties agree that that cannot continue.

It is ironic, however, that Harlequins, who on Monday signed Zinzan Brooke, the New Zealand forward, on a lucrative contract to add to their polyglot squad, should be one of the first clubs to call for a cap on players' wages.

Guy Williams, the club's financial director, has pinpointed the salaries of foreign players as an area where money could be saved and perhaps invested in youth development, for which he said there was no long-term strategy. "The beneficiaries at the moment are the players coming from abroad at the peak of their maturity. Players know what their power is in demanding a higher salary and this has got out of control. I think this is to the detriment of rugby as a whole," he said.

There has to be a re-structured in order to put a salary structure in place covering all the home unions. Otherwise we will reach a situation where clubs in the first and second divisions will suffer greatly."

Such statements will almost certainly bring a knowing smile to the faces of Messrs Brittle and Cotton, who could be forgiven, perhaps, for saying: "We told you so."

Meanwhile, Brian Ashton, the Ireland coach, has suffered a setback in the build-up to the international against New Zealand in Dublin next month. David Corkery, the Bristol flanker, seems certain to miss the game after being seriously hurt during a freak training-ground accident.

Corkery suffered knee and ankle injuries when he was tackled by Craig Short, his back-row colleague, during a full-contact club session.

The former Cork Constitution player's kneecap dislocated on impact, and, after falling awkwardly, he also sustained ankle ligament and tendon damage that should keep him out of rugby for at least six weeks.



Cardiff have offered Liam Botham, West Hartlepool's unsettled England Under-21 centre, a one-month trial. Botham, above, the son of Ian, the former England cricketer, trained with Cardiff yesterday and could feature when they resume their Welsh League premier division campaign

in two weeks' time. "We have not signed Liam, but the coaching staff will see how he fares," Peter Manning, the Cardiff team manager, said. Botham, 20, made just one league appearance for West Hartlepool, but relishes the new challenge. "It's a great opportunity and I'm looking forward to it."

Play-offs pitch Pontypridd towards return to Brive

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE complex qualification system agreed for the Heineken Cup quarter-finals throws up the serious possibility that Brive and Pontypridd will meet for a third time this season in the play-offs. Should that happen, three of the Pontypridd players, each of them implicated in the bar-room brawl that followed the first pool match last month, are legally disqualified from appearing in Brive.

Dale McIntosh, the Welsh club's No 8, was sent off during the game at the Stade Municipal on September 14 and has yet to face a charge brought by European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC), the tournament organiser, of bringing the game into disrepute by his actions as he left the field. He, Phil John, the hooker, and André Barnard, the centre, were all involved in a brawl in a bar later that evening and an examining judge found the next day that they had a case to answer.

However, the French legal system also precludes individuals involved in such an examination — which could take anything up to six

months to conclude — from returning to the area. If Pontypridd have to play Brive for a place in the quarter-finals, they would have to apply for a legal exemption if they wished to field any one of the three players.

The first meeting of the clubs, which Brive won 32-31, included a brawl involving the majority of players on both sides that ended with the dismissal of McIntosh and Lionel Mallier, the Brive flanker. It was not the only violent incident and, when players from both sides encountered each other in the Toulouse bar later on, three internationals — Philippe Carbonneau, Christophe Lamaison and David Venditti — received injuries. Brive threatened not to play the return match at Sardis Road, but duly appeared on September 27 to share a 29-29 draw.

With the final round of pool matches to be played this weekend it is, at the moment, a hypothetical issue, but there is a strong possibility that, after the weekend, it will have become fact. If Treviso, the Italian club, lose in Pau and

Bourgoin lose in Cardiff (which, on form, both are likely to do), then Pontypridd will have the best record of the clubs placed third in any of the five groups.

The six teams for the play-offs comprise the five pool runners-up and the best-ranked team in third place. The six teams will be seeded according to: a) pool points; b) pool points difference; c) most pool tries; d) best disciplinary record. The leading three teams will have home advantage and team one will play team six, team two will be against team five and team three against team four.

If Brive come away victorious from their game with Scottish Borders, they would be the best of the teams placed second in any group and, as such, would be due to entertain Pontypridd in the play-offs over the weekend of November 1-2. If, however, Pontypridd were to win in Bath on Saturday, then Brive could take over the leadership of pool C and avoid any further strain on Franco-Welsh relationships. Sod's Law suggests otherwise.

All Blacks take steps to prevent burnout

By DAVID HANDS

THE burnout against which rugby's players and coaches have warned since the game accepted professionalism two years ago is catching up with the best team in the world: New Zealand. "It is getting to the stage where we've had players who have been relieved to be injured, just so they can get a break," John Mayhew said yesterday.

Mayhew, the team doctor to the All Blacks for most of this decade, cited the example of Auckland, who relinquished the Ranfurly Shield to Waikato last weekend. "They went through the Super 12 tournament, which they played and won, then had a lot of players with the All Blacks and now they're having to play in a tough national provincial championship [NPC]," he said.

It is all too easy to look at the hard core of the New Zealand side, the tight-five forwards, and believe them almost impervious to injury. But they are as vulnerable as any. Sean Fitzpatrick, their captain, required knee surgery after the international season ended with victory in the tri-nations championship. Some of his Auckland colleagues, 11 of whom have been involved with the All Blacks, may be rested while the semi-finals and final of the NPC are played.

The 36 players to tour Britain and Ireland next month will be named on Monday and John Hart, the All Blacks coach, has taken steps to ensure that they arrive refreshed, mentally and physically. The nine-match tour, beginning at Llanelli on November 8, includes internationals against England (two), Ireland and Wales.

"Players don't want to be injured, but mentally they just need to be away for a while," Mayhew said. "Next year, I think we have only seven tests and no end-of-year tour, and that will make it more bearable for the players." Mayhew was referring to the southern hemisphere summer, which precedes the 1999 World Cup.

It is not only New Zealand who will need rest and recuperation. Administrators from all the leading rugby-playing countries, some of them driven by the need to enhance valuable television contracts, have fallen into the trap of committing their players to too much representative rugby, at a time when clubs and provinces are starting to make conscious efforts to structure careers for their employees with rest periods.

England are well aware of the difficulty and only last week Cliff Brittle, chairman of the Rugby Football Union's management board, warned against the over-exposure of leading players.

More than a hundred Australian players have been guaranteed minimum salaries of £25,000. A select squad of elite national team players will also benefit. The agreement includes a clause guaranteeing full payment of contracts regardless of injury.

IN BRIEF

Hornets try to ease Oldham's plight

ROCHDALE Hornets have put their ground at Oldham's disposal, in order to help save their stricken neighbours, whose shareholders are being urged to put the club into liquidation (Christopher Irvine writes).

"We don't want the Bears to die and they can come and play at Spodden for as long as they like, if it would help the situation," Ray Taylor, the Rochdale chairman, said. "Hopefully, a rescue package can be found."

St Helens are to redevelop Knowsley Road, after plans for a new stadium, near the M62, fell through because of a lack of funding.

Race dropped

Motor racing: The French Grand Prix has been omitted from the Formula One world championship calendar for next year after a dispute over television rights between the privately-owned company, TFI, and the French state channel, FR3. French officials had been hoping that a gap would be left in the calendar, allowing them to be added to the list once the dispute has been resolved.

Chasing record

Tennis: Lorna Woodroffe, of Surrey, leads the Great Britain team that will be seeking a record fifth successive victory over the United States in the Maureen Connolly Trophy in Manchester from October 23 to 25. Louise Latimer, of Warwickshire, Abigail Tordoff, of Kent, and Mandi Wainwright and Amanda Jones, both of Essex, complete the line-up.

Squad members

Rugby union: Argentina have named four English-based players in their squad for the Latin Cup competition later this month. They are Federico Mendez and Cerman Llanes, both of Bath, and Agustín Pichot and Rolando Aguirre, both of Richmond. Argentina play France, Italy and Romania in France between October 18 and 26.

Smith fourth

Sailing: *Silk Cut* yesterday remained in fourth place in the Whitbread Round the World Race, despite having lost another three nautical miles to *Innovation Kvaerner*. Lawrie Smith were 142 miles adrift of the Norwegian leaders after rounding the island of Fernando de Noronha off the coast of Brazil.

Syed supreme

Table tennis: Matthew Syed, the English national champion, has moved above his main rival, Carl Prean, in the world rankings for the first time. Syed has risen to 37 from 38 while Prean has dropped four places to 38. Lisa Lomas, the England women's No 1, has slipped a place to 69.

SQUASH

Selectors strive to get squad balance right

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE opening fixture of the Squash Rackets Association (SRA) National League has highlighted the delicate managerial task of balancing strength in mixed-sex squads, as opposing professional schedules call upon the top players.

Mitsubishi Electric Potlitz are pleased enough so far. Defending champions, they set the 1997-98 season in motion on Tuesday evening with a 5-0 win in group A over the newly-elected Ilkley side. The match included a walk-over for their reserve fifth-string woman, Dominique Lloyd-Walter, the Middlesex union listed instead of Sue Wright, the England No 2.

Wright, along with almost every other leading woman in the world, is in Australia preparing for the world open championship in Sydney next week. League fixtures over the next few weeks are likely to be similarly affected by the men's world championships in Malaysia next month and national open championships in various parts of the world.

"There is a greater depth in the men's ranks, of course," Brian Hargrave, the National League administrator, said. "An important gathering in the women's game tends to throw us back on sometimes untested reserves which, in Ilkley's case, was complicated

by a flu virus that kept Kate Allison, the England No 19, in her bed when she should have been understudying Cassandra Jackson, the England No 1."

At one point, Hargrave's own squad at Duffield, in Derbyshire, looked likely to have personnel problems this season, having signed two ranking players, Jane Martin and Natalie Grainger, for the fifth string in group B. "I was really pleased to have such good cover until I discovered they would both be in Australia for my first match," he said.

Then he found that Jamie Thacker, 19, the England No 8, had, in deciding against an expensive trip to the world open, overlooked her need to secure a league tenure at home. "I signed her on the spot and I reckon it could make all the difference to our season."

Armourcoat Priory start their group A season tonight, away to Hallamshire, in Sheffield, with Zubair Jahan, the Pakistan No 2, leading the Birmingham-based squad and Pauline Nicholl, the durable England No 11, replacing Tracey Shenton as the fifth string.

Nicholl is a tough northern competitor who rarely travels far from her Newcastle base.

Results, page 44

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TENNIS: HENMAN OUSTS SPANIARD WITH A JEKYLL-AND-HYDE PERFORMANCE

Rusedski maintains momentum

FROM JULIAN MURCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN VIENNA

THE Greg Rusedski juggernaut rolled deeper into Europe when the Britain No 1 brushed aside some spirited resistance from Andrei Medvedev in the CA Trophy here yesterday. Encouragingly for his prospects of winning successive tournaments, Rusedski triumphed 7-6, 6-4, without quite reaching the peaks of Basle last week.

Playing in front of his new coach, Tony Pickard, for the first time, he saved his best for the key moments although Medvedev, who had two points for the opening-set tie-break, was left to rue the backhand volley that drifted marginally wide on the first. Some matches ultimately hinge on the outcome of a single shot and Medvedev, ranked No 27 in the world, will reflect that this could have been one of them.

The Ukrainian had beaten Rusedski on both their previous encounters, most recently in imposing fashion in Davis Cup rubber on clay. He started this match as though the mental high-ground were his, and Rusedski's failure to string together a meaningful series of returns made a tie-break inevitable.

Medvedev had his chances, too, but he came up against a re-formed Rusedski, who felt the match standard was particularly good. Apart from playing [Pete] Sampras in Munich, that was some of the best tennis anyone has played against me in the last few weeks — especially in the first set," he said.

A solitary break in the second set proved conclusive as Rusedski, gaining his 23rd win from his last 28 outings, advanced to a second-round tie with Magnus Norman of Sweden.

If nothing else, this victory demonstrated the rapid strides that Rusedski has made towards the game's summit. Medvedev had been ranked some way above Rusedski until recently and he would have collected a hand-



Henman focuses on a backhand against Mantilla, but his concentration wavered in the second set

some ranking-points dividend had he won. Yet he succumbed in 76 minutes as Rusedski maintained his relentless march towards the ATP world championships in Hannover next month. "That's all I am focusing on at the moment," Rusedski said. "I have a lot of rankings points to defend this week, but Hannover is my next target."

Tim Henman, the Britain No 2, duly joined Rusedski in the second round, defeating Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Henman dominated the first 70 minutes of the match, having converted one of three opportunities against

service in the opening set, he played a thrilling sequence of points to break his opponent early in the second.

A cross-court pass reduced Mantilla to falling at thin air and a finely-judged lob rendered him helpless. Henman had contrived the ideal blend of controlled aggression against a baseliner with a venomous repertoire of passing shots. He was surely coasting to victory.

However, if that passage portrayed the Hyde in Henman, the Jekyll immediately showed his face. Henman forfeited his advantage with three double faults

and, from holding his service with ease, the Briton capitulated, staving off another break point at 4-4 before a resurgent Mantilla levelled the match.

Such parity seemed a travesty from Henman's perspective. It is always frustrating for the aggressor when he is pitched against an anonymous baseliner. Moreover, allow the Spaniard his toe in the door and he is likely to kick it off his hinges.

Fortunately, after that lapse in concentration, Henman regrouped, conjuring the spirit of his early play to look the more menacing in the third set. At 3-3, he achieved the

breakthrough that secured a second-round encounter with Jan Apell, a qualifier ranked No 727 in the world.

"It was a strange match," Henman said. "Mantilla may be a clay-court player, but I cannot underestimate him. He made life difficult for myself, but I always felt I had the ability to win the third set."

In an overall context, Henman's defeat of Mantilla, ranked No 14 in the world and seeded No 7 here, rates as a worthy achievement, but Henman would have condemned himself to sleepless nights had the contest slipped from his clutches.

Davis Cup bye for Britain

GREAT Britain have been awarded a bye through to the second round of the Davis Cup next year, where they will meet the winners of the match in February between Ukraine and Denmark, in the Euro/African zone group one.

Ukraine are favourites to beat Denmark in the first-round match, and since Britain beat them in Kiev last July, David Lloyd, the team captain, is optimistic of making progress.

"It's a good draw, but, with the players we've got, we shouldn't be frightened of anybody, though I'm pleased we've avoided Croatia away

with Goran Ivanisevic," Lloyd said.

If Ukraine are their opponents, then Britain will host the match on April 3 to 5, with Newcastle as the likely venue. But, with Lloyd's contract with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) expiring in March, it is possible that the Britain team could have a new captain for the match.

"We are in discussion but, at present, they are only offering me an extension to the end of 1998," Lloyd said. "I've called for a three-year business plan to win the Davis Cup and I would like the LTA to give me a vote of confidence for that

period. I want to lead the team but, if the players don't want me, I would walk."

Lloyd is confident that his goal of winning the Davis Cup within three years is a realistic aim. "If we happen to win it, it would be bigger than any individual winning a tournament with the exception of Wimbledon," he said. "It will be like lifting the Ryder Cup."

DRAW: World group: First round: Slovakia v Sweden; Germany v South Africa; Brazil v Spain; Switzerland v Czech Republic; Italy v India; Australia v Zimbabwe; Belgium v Holland; United States v Russia. Euro/African zone: Group one: First round: Finland v Croatia; Ukraine v Denmark; Second round: France v Croatia; Ireland v Great Britain v Ukraine; Denmark v Romania v Norway; Israel v Austria.

Beaten Wilkinson still predicts bright future

CHRIS WILKINSON lost in the second round of the Singapore Open yesterday, but declared that British tennis is improving dramatically.

The Britain No 3 was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Nicolas Pietrangeli, of Germany, but was not downhearted by the result. "British tennis is getting better all the time and that's a credit to everyone involved in the game," he said.

"Tennis is pretty much an open sport at the moment. Even here, we have seen No 1 seed Michael Chang and Mark Woodforde both go out

in the first round." Wilkinson has reached the quarter-finals of the doubles tournament in Singapore with David Wheaton, from the United States, and will be involved in next month's British national championships in Telford.

He expects the example of Britain's top two players to inspire many emerging prospects. "The success of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski has been a great inspiration for the youngsters in this country," Wilkinson said. "Their work for the British game has been excellent."

CRICKET

Last pair equal record

THE first Test match of the series between Pakistan and South Africa, in Rawalpindi, provided a little of everything yesterday, with one record equalled, another broken, a police baton charge and a Royal visit.

Azhar Mahmood, on his Test debut, and Mushtaq Ahmed equalled the world record of 151 runs for the last wicket as Pakistan reached 456. Azhar remained unbeaten on 128 and Mushtaq scored 59 as the pair matched the record set by Brian Hastings and Richard Collinge, for New Zealand, in Auckland against Pakistan in the 1972-73 season.

Mushtaq was eventually bowled by Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, on the stroke of lunch on the third day.

Pakistan established another world first with two players making centuries on their Test debut. Ali Naqvi, 20, scored 115 on the first day, followed by the 128 from Azhar, 22.

Police were forced to mount a baton charge and fired tear gas to disperse a group of stone-throwing students. The ground had become swamped when authorities allowed free entry because of the Queen's visit to the ground. The youths blocked roads outside the stadium, although order was restored several hours before the Queen's arrival.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Farooq Ahmed Leghari, the President of Pakistan, watched the post-tea session.

Mushtaq failed by one run

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

PETROGENESIS

(a) The study of the formation of rocks, especially igneous and metamorphic rocks. From the Greek *petra*, "rock". "Roney" suggests that theories of lunar petrogenesis are developing too fast."

SABIR

(a) A French-based pidgin language used in parts of North Africa. Also a lingua franca. From the French *sabir* to know in the language invented by Molière in *Le bourgeois gentilhomme* (1670), probably an adaptation of the French *saber*, to know. "The multinational institutions of the Common Market are gradually developing a modern administrative *sabir* compounded from French, German, Italian, and even English."

SANCERRE

(b) The name of a town in the Cher department of central France, used attributively and absolutely to designate a light white (occasionally red) wine produced in its neighbourhood. "I ordered a bottle of Sancerre and it came well chilled."

PARSEME

(a) Sprinkled or strewn (with). Used especially in embroidery with reference to the decoration of fabrics and costumes. From the Latin *parere* through *seminare* to sow. "She was preparing to set to work in a yellow dress *parsemé* with red roses. I thought it was a pity to spoil so fine a gown."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bg6! f6g2 2 Qg6! Bg7 3 Rh5! Kd8 4 Qf7 Rg8 (to defend the bishop on g7) 5 Rh1! Nf7 6 Qg6 and Black gets mated.

PAKISTAN: First innings

*Sealed Away c Richardson b Donald 116
Ali Naqvi c Kirsten b Donald 115
Mohamed Ramzan b b Pollard 58
Javed Miandad c Symcox 11
Irfan Khan c Richardson b Schultz 12
Munir Khan b b Donald 12
Azhar Mahmood not out 128
Mushtaq Ahmed b b Pollard 59
Waqar Younis b b Pollard 45
Mushtaq Ahmed b Cronje 59
Extras (b 2, lb 7, nb 13) 25
Total (f wgt) 456
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-114, 3-125, 4-152, 5-198, 6-206, 7-230, 8-231, 9-305
BOWLING: Donald 33-3-108-3, Schultz 15-4-6-1, Pollard 37-13-74-3, Miandad 17-5-8-0, Symcox 45-11-103-2, Naqvi 7-16-0, Cronje 7-5-26-1.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

G Kirsten not out 62
A M Bester c Ramzan b Seelman 58
J H Kallis not out 20
Extras (b 3, nb 4) 7
Total (f wgt) 139
FALL OF WICKET: 1-107
D J Cullinan, W J Cronje, B M Morkel, S M Pollock, Y D J Richardson, P L Symcox, A A Donald and B N Schultz to bat
BOWLING: Waqar Younis 7-24-42, Azhar Mahmood 10-1-19-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 21-5-47-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 26-11-45-1, Umrigar 9 Wicket-taking (2nd and 4th) and Javed Miandad (3rd).

TELEVISION CHOICE

Two views of Napoleon

Leviathan
BBC2, 7.30pm

As England prepare to take on Italy at football, it may be ungalant (or even tempting fate) to recall a match from the past which was so acrimonious that it has become known as the Battle of Highbury. This was in 1934, Italy had just won the World Cup but England were defending an unbeaten home record. The irony, as the programme reveals, is that the Italians learnt the game from British engineers: working in the country at the end of the 19th century. Tonight's other item explores the roots of Euroscepticism. Professor Clive Emsley of the Open University suggests that British distrust of Europe goes back to Napoleon. But while we see him as a military dictator whose tyranny ended at Waterloo, on the Continent he is remembered as a great reformer.

Lonely Planet

Channel 4, 8.30pm

That chirpy chappie Ian Wright is off to the Australian Outback this week, trailing it as the most remote place on earth and with the deadliest spiders. Neither claim is substantiated. The spiders do not materialise, while as for loneliness the place seems crawling with backpackers. But Wright is an engaging chap, with a knack of coming across larger-than-life characters. Or perhaps we should be praising the programme's researchers, for it cannot just be coincidence that Wright finds himself hitching a lift with a flying padre whose guffaws can even be heard above the roar of the plane. Contrivance aside, Wright has a good feel for the area and is scrupulous in giving due prominence to the Aborigines who, after all these years, are still very much second-class citizens.

A Dance to the Music of Time

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Anthony Powell's acclaimed novel sequence has been brought to the screen by a formidable team both in front of, and behind, the camera. In comparing the 12 books into four two-hour films, the adapter, Hugh Whitmore, has had to lose characters and trim episodes but only pedants will complain. The essence of the project, to cast a



Presenter Mark Urban (BBC2, 7.30pm)

wittily jaundiced eye over the doings of an upper-crust social-cum-artistic set over five decades, the firmly intact. Tonight's instalment starts in the 1920s, with appropriate songs from Noel Coward and others, and introduces the Billy Bunterish Kenneth Williams (Simon Russell Beale) whose rakish fortunes we are destined to follow throughout the cycle. James Purfoy plays Nicholas Jenkins, the novelist-narrator Powell based loosely on himself, and in a cast full of good names there are choice vignettes from Alan Bennett and John Gielgud.

Horizon: The Virus That Cures

BBC2, 9.25pm

Every year more than five million people (not all in Britain, you will be relieved to learn) die of infections that do not respond to antibiotics. So if antibiotics are no longer up to the job, and no new one has been discovered in 30 years, what defence is there against the so-called superbugs? The answer, according to Judith Bunting's informative film, may lie not in some new development but one that goes back 70 years. This is phage, a virus that attacks bacteria and is derived from sewage. It was pioneered at an institute in Georgia, in the former Soviet Union, but largely ignored in the West. Now that the West needs it, the institute is starved of funds. This summer a Canadian millionaire stepped in to save the project, but the story has a bitter twist. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Analysis: Privatising Privacy?

Radio 4, 8.00pm

The events surrounding the death of Diana, Princess of Wales have pushed issues of privacy to the top of the national agenda, although it is not clear if most of us understand what is meant by privacy or how it would best be protected. As this programme shows, there are economists who think that if society regards privacy as having a value, then that value may best be measured by treating privacy as a commodity. To some extent this is already happening, as the information age collects information about us and moves it around, at a price, from one company to another. Is this in itself an "invasion" of privacy and if so, what can be done to stop it? Alison Mitchell introduces an attempt to answer that and other questions.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe Breakfast Show 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 3.00 Mark Goodier 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq (8.00 only) 8.15 Peter Dinklage 9.15 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Clive Wilkin 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Taylor 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 David Allen's Country Club 6.00 Paul Jones 8.00 Soul Power with Robbie Vincent. See Choice 6.30 The Big Breakfast with Mark Kermode 9.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbes 1.00am Clive Wilkin 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine with Brian Hayes 12.00 Midday News 2.00pm Rapscall on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 On the Line 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Sports America with Alan Byrd 9.30 Sportspoint 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Daily 8.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Nick Abbott 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Nicky Home 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyne (AM) Colin Jones 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00am Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lore Koz 2.00pm Peter Dinklage 4.00 Peter Dinklage 7.00am Anna Riebaum 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Performances by: Peter Dinklage, Richard Lewis, piano, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique under John Eliot Gardiner. Schumann (Symphony in G minor; introduction and Allegro in D; Concerto in F for four horns; Symphony No 3 in E flat, Brahms).
6.20 Postscript: Projections. The film historian Ian Christie talks to leading contemporary film-makers.
9.40 Villa-Lobos. The first of two programmes of miniatures by Heitor Villa-Lobos.
10.00 Music Review. A concert given last July in St Clare's Church, Maryland, York, Emma Kirkby, soprano, Anthony Rooley, lute, includes Dowland (Can She Excuse? O Sweet Woods); Anthony Holborne (Consorts); John Dowland (Pavane for Lute); Dowland (Flow My Tears, Sorrow Stay, Die not Before Thy Day, Mourning, Day That is with Darkness, Farewell, Too Fair, Time stands still); Holborne (The Echo Song); Dowland (His Golden Locks) (4/8).
10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright examines the role of medicine. Plus a report from the opening night of David Bintley's ballet, Edward II.
11.30 Composers of the Week: Schoenberg, Berg and Webern (Sounding the Century) (1).
12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather. The 10th anniversary concert by Steve and Julian Argüelles. Quintet at this year's Kingston-upon-Hull Jazz Festival.
1.30 Through the Night with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Running in the Family (4/5) 6.55 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Wake and his team of investigators (4/5)
9.30 What Am I Doing Here? An anthology of poems, letters and classic written and read by old workers from trouble spots around the world
10.00 (FM) News; Tales from the Islands: The Platter of Melito. A play based on Joseph Conrad's stories of the Malay Archipelago, with John Peel and Michael Maloney
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray talks to the photographer Nancy Horne
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. News from BBC reporters around the world
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Out of Order. Patrick Harman chairs the light-hearted quiz, with team captain Michael White and Austin Mitchell. MP 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool and James Cox in London
1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thursday Afternoon Play: Dat's a Love, by Leonard Brito. With Suzanne Packer and Sandra James-Young (1)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Dore Brian
4.00 News 4.25 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen explores

the first week of the Dublin Theatre Festival
4.45 Short Story: Pail, by Helen Dunmore. Read by Saskia Reeves
5.00 PM 5.00 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 First Impressions. Pete McCarthy chairs the panel game for the first time. With team captain Alistair McGowan and Steve Nallon
7.00 News 7.25 The Archers
7.20 Hotel Australasia. Jon Ronson reports from the sites of the Holocaust in Poland on the growing tourist industry surrounding the scenes of the horror
8.00 Analysis: Privatising Privacy? See Choice 6.30
8.45 Pen Friendly: A Need for Speed. The novelist Hwa Hwa Tan exchanges e-mails with Marcel Moreting in Rotterdam about their shared obsession with computers (2/3)
9.00 Does He Take Drugs? Frederick Dove with the magazine made by and about people with disabilities
9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris
10.45 Book of the Week: Europe, by Tim Parks (4/7)
11.00 Fear on Face: Melding Science. Three young girls learn about the darker side of life. With Caroline Strong, Sarah Rose and Alison Pett
11.30 Offspring, with John Peel (1)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Drowned World, by J.G. Ballard, abridged by Peter Reynolds. Read by Nicholas Farrell (2/10) (1)
12.45 (LW) Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1667, 1669, 1671, 1673, 1675, 1677, 1679, 1681, 1683, 1685, 1687, 1689, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1697, 1699, 1701, 1703, 1705, 1707, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1729, 1731, 1733, 1735, 1737, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1757, 1759, 1761, 1763, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773,

Scrummage leaves them deeper in the mire

Having got off to a precarious start at the beginning of their first season as a professional rugby team, the players and managers of Bath Rugby Club (or "Bath") as the team's new Roman heritage-obsessed marketing consultants would like us to dress them) can draw some comfort from the fact that those first few weeks didn't turn out to be such a awful period after all. Not compared with the few weeks that followed them.

As the second instalment of *The Rugby Club* (BBC2) opens, Bath has just lost one match to Pontypridd. Taking the sort of executive decision that few executives make — the sort of decision that earns them the poshest car, and the best car-parking space to put it in — the club's newly appointed Executive Chairman, Ed Goodall, swiftly shoves all blame on to John Hall. Goodall's background is in greetings cards. Hall is the England-

capped, former Bath player who is now the team's director of rugby. Hall is speechless. If this was *Oprah*, there would be a caption under his face which read: "John Hall — burly rugby player who has only just realised that a rugby boot full in the face is a lot less painful than an executive knife in the back."

Any other business on the agenda for this board meeting — apart from setting up Hall as the patsy in case things go wrong? Yes, the new bosses want to change the name from "Bath Football Club" to "Bath Rugby", which sounds like a game you play while you're soaking in the tub at night, an up-and-under sort of game, maybe.

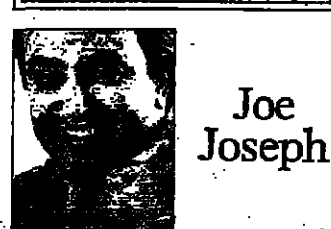
After the Pontypridd setback, they beat the French team Dax, and then Italy's Treviso. Bath captain Phil de Glanville is made England captain, too. But then they lose against Cardiff, ending their hopes of triumph in Europe.

Or, as the club's new marketing consultants would probably put it: "Early Bath Rugby."

If the question "how could it happen?" was asked only of Bath's choppy 1996 season, our troubles would be small. But it was asked of Treblinka concentration camp. In Laurence Rees's horribly magnetic *The Nazis* (BBC2), "How could such places ever come to exist?"

Maybe they wouldn't have existed if Hitler hadn't convinced himself that even Jewish toddlers were helping to orchestrate a world conspiracy aimed at bringing Germany to its knees. Maybe they wouldn't have existed if Hitler had acted on the bizarre suggestion, made by a German Foreign Office official in June 1940, to resettle all the Jews on a tropical island under the control of German police. Madagascar was proposed. *Madagascar!* It is almost

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

surreal to imagine hotel lobbies in Madagascar full of Jews in armchairs eating marble cake and watching the world go by, while trying to avoid going to the beach. But what was it that actually happened to those same Jews? More than 99 per cent of those sent to Treblinka were murdered, mostly within three hours of arriving. But the Jews weren't always processed en masse. In the early

stages of the war, when the Nazis were pushing into the Soviet Union, Jews were simply rounded up and shot. But this began to upset Himmler, because killing at such close quarters was having a damaging psychological effect on his men: so he struggled to find a more humane method — humane for his men, not his victims. In the meantime, the Nazis took whatever help was offered. And, luckily for them, plenty was offered.

In the Baltic states the Nazis found plenty of collaborators willing to help them to pull the trigger, men who were as blasé about killing children — hundreds of children every day — as the Nazis. Men such as Petras Zelenka, a Lithuanian member of a Nazi killing squad: "We would shoot them, give them up as lost, and that was it."

After years of watching documentaries on Nazis, we thought we had viewed every inch of archive

footage and seen every surviving witness interviewed. But Rees always finds someone new to chill our bones. So tell us Petras, why did you kill innocent children, who had never been Communists? "How should I put it to you? It's a kind of curiosity. You just pull the trigger, he falls, and that's it."

You itch to call such killers animals, but animals are actually more respectable. They kill for food. As Nathaniel Moore, a 12-year-old American who barely survived an attack by a mountain lion, told us in *Animal People* (BBC1), "I don't hate mountain lions. He was just hungry and attacked me... it's part of nature."

Mountain lions are apparently becoming common sights in American backyards, often looting off with the family dog. It was thought they were scared of humans, but then one pounced on a Californian

schoolteacher in a San Diego park and killed her. I'd have felt more scared if it hadn't been Peter Sissons doing the narrating on this show. It made the whole thing sound like an item on the *Nine O'Clock News*. I kept expecting Sissons to cut away to "our chief political correspondent, John Sergeant, over in Westminster", who would be buttonholing ministers about what they planned to do about the potential mountain-lion threat to the British people.

Tony Blair: "We were brave enough to tame the wilder excesses of the Labour Party and we will now tame the wilder excesses of the mountain lion. Let nobody be in any doubt. The British people voted for change, not for mountain lions. As on May 1, it is a battle of fear against hope. And, as on May 1, hope will win. We are entering a giving age, and we are going to give mountain lions something they'll never forget: John Prescott."

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (88847)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (82870003)
- 9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (3555287)
- 9.55 Sky Challenge (8673737)
- 9.55 Kilroy (7) (8652824)
- 10.35 Conservative Party Conference '97 Debates on the economy and health and social security (7) (2433083)
- 12.35pm Going for a Song Sheridan Morley and Perry Smith brush up on jargon (8608487)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (7) (53084)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (7) (463635)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (4669358)
- 1.45 Neighbours Marlene wishes she could turn back the clock when her meddling backbite (7) (462947)
- 2.10 Golf: World Matchplay Steve Rider introduces coverage of the World Matchplay Championship from Wentworth (491815)
- 3.30 Funnies (8680354) 3.35 Playdays (8107644) 3.55 The Silver Brumby (7) (8101460) 4.20 Mr Wymy (8505731) 4.35 Smart: accidental watercolours, storage containers and fuzzy portraits (8910538)
- 5.00 Newsround (7) (248977)
- 5.10 Byker Grove Terrace backs up courage (7) (8683002)
- 5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (65773)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) (354)
- 6.30 Regional News (606)
- 7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer magazine, also with Alice Beer, Liz Kershaw, Johnathan Maitland, John Nicolson and Andy Webb (7) (1880)
- 7.30 EastEnders Devastating news about what's happened to little Billy sends shockwaves through the Square; Sarah and Joe sue Lorraine and Irene again (7) (118)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital Steve Knight meets a lost seahorse which needs a guiding hand to find its way back to the coast (7) (7828)
- 8.30 Dad Comedy, starring George Cole and Kevin McNally (7) (6335)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) (8915)
- 9.30 The Looksmith (3/5) As Carla's condition deteriorates, Roland surmises that his professional skills could go one step further than deterring a villain. Drama, starring Warren Clarke (506793)
- 10.20 Clive Anderson All Talk With the actor, comedian and author Stephen Fry (7) (296064)
- 11.00 Question Time Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, Conservative vice-chancellor Archie Norman and Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman Menzies Campbell (53441)
- 12.00 Golf Steve Rider introduces highlights from today's play in the World Matchplay Championship from Wentworth. With commentary by Peter Allis, Alex Hay, and Dave Marr (5018318)
- 12.40am Street War (1952) With Ray Sharkey and Mario Van Peebles, fact-based police drama about a bloody conflict between rival drug gangs on the streets of Brooklyn. Directed by Dick Lowy (3483855)
- 2.10 Weather (8552513)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode on the remote control to record, VideoPlus+ PlusCode (7) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Science: The Chemistry of Creation (53688) 6.30 Why Me? Why Now? (47915) 7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (7) (9789644)
- 7.15 Teletubbies (7) (8052084) 7.40 Smurfs: Adventures (7) (4407913) 8.05 Blue Peter (7) (7121731) 8.30 Johnson and Friends (7) (758388) 8.40 Mouse and Mole (7) (2765267) 8.45 Harry and the Handkerchiefs (7) (7871151)
- 9.10 Numberline (3602266) 9.25 Megamaths (7230335) 9.45 Come Outside (8798712) 10.00 Teletubbies (36267) 10.30 Storytime (8841625) 10.45 The Experiment (7628477) 11.05 Space Ark (7877625) 11.15 21st Zg Zag (5479731) 11.35 English File (8284847) 11.55 Lifeschool (3895335) 12.20pm Showcase (8251267)
- 12.30 Working Lunch (37441) 1.00 Barney (7) (5518042) 1.05 Monty (7) (5518979) 1.10 Countryside (7718335) 2.10 News (7744042)
- 2.15 Conservative Party Conference '97 Jon Sopel and Diana Madill present live coverage from Blackpool (914977) 3.55 News (7) (188070)
- 4.00 Golf: World Matchplay Action from Wentworth (868625)
- 5.30 Today's the Day (593)
- 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Lwaxana Tril turns to Odo (7) (462338)
- 6.45 Conference Talk (71770)
- 7.30 **Landfill** Parallels between Europeanisation and the country's fight with Napoleon; Italy's football roots are traced back to 1900s Britain (480)
- 8.00 The Whitehead A report on the yacht race (8170) WALES: Franco and Friends
- 8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the latest off-roader from Land Rover, the gimmick-laden, colour co-ordinated Range Rover Autobiography (7) (4977)
- 9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Dick quits the university on a matter of principle in the mistaken belief that he'll be welcomed back with open arms (7) (87712)
- 9.25 **Horizon** A virus that works on antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria (7) (891847)
- 10.15 10x10 (7) (268265)
- 10.30 Newsnight (7) (902373)
- 11.15 Late Review (220441) 11.55 Weather (750422) 12.00 A Day in the Life of (25774)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Bill Oddie (5562128) 12.35 Wildlife: Patterns in Green (4585300) 1.00 Reindeer in the Arctic (12311) 1.30 Listening in the Dark (13958) 2.00 Mental Health and Community Care (94039) 4.00 Teaching Film and Media (47391) 5.00 Teacher Training: Basic Skills (89478) 5.30 Understanding Dyslexia (24403)

BBC2

- 6.00am GMTV (4100286)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (7) (3944151)
- 9.55 Regional News (7581426)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (25793)
- 10.30 The Morning (7) (7728793)
- 12.20pm Regional News (8246753)
- 12.30 News (7) and weather (5890644)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (5673335)
- 1.25 Home and Away Aaron is suspicious of Justin's new boyfriend Denny (7) (7603542)
- 1.50 Remote Control Cooking (7) (7143880)
- 2.20 Vanessa (7) (74651354)
- 2.50 The Natural Health Show Treatments for circulation problems (942802)
- 3.20 News (4089033)
- 3.25 Regional News and weather (4088354)
- 3.30 Potomac Park (8102915) 3.40 Wicazopa (8682865) 3.50 Kipper (8684170) 4.00 The Architecture of David (8587335)
- 4.15 Hey Arnold (7) (8359712) 4.40 Animal Ark (7) (5845624)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (3074915) Followed by Crimemasters
- 5.40 News (7) and weather (807808)
- 6.00 Home and Away (7) (315606)
- 6.25 Regional News (867480)
- 6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (7) (842)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (7) (842)
- 7.00 Emmerdale Sarah is shocked to find Billy has lost his job (7) (32468)
- 7.30 WALES: Homeground (286)
- 7.30 The Big Sky Dermot Murnaghan compares latest losses to fight drug crime in America and Britain (286)
- 8.00 The Bill Boudie finds himself playing councillor to save a marriage (7) (2396)
- 8.30 Clive James on TV A fond look at the world of costume drama (4731)

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- 3.25 Regional News and weather (4088354)
- 3.30 Potomac Park (8102915) 3.40 Wicazopa (8682865) 3.50 Kipper (8684170) 4.00 The Architecture of David (8587335)
- 4.15 Hey Arnold (7) (8359712) 4.40 Animal Ark (7) (5845624)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (3074915) Followed by Crimemasters
- 5.40 News (7) and weather (807808)
- 6.00 Home and Away (7) (315606)
- 6.25 Regional News (867480)
- 6.30 WALES: Wales Tonight (7) (842)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (7) (842)
- 7.00 Emmerdale Sarah is shocked to find Billy has lost his job (7) (32468)
- 7.30 WALES: Homeground (286)
- 7.30 The Big Sky Dermot Murnaghan compares latest losses to fight drug crime in America and Britain (286)
- 8.00 The Bill Boudie finds himself playing councillor to save a marriage (7) (2396)
- 8.30 Clive James on TV A fond look at the world of costume drama (4731)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 10.00am Happy Ever After (16170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2.30 Gordon (857170) 3.00 Gordon (857170) 3.30 Gordon (857170) 4.00 Gordon (857170) 4.30 Gordon (857170) 5.00 Gordon (857170) 5.30 Gordon (857170) 6.00 Gordon (857170) 6.30 Gordon (857170) 7.00 Gordon (857170) 7.30 Gordon (857170) 8.00 Gordon (857170) 8.30 Gordon (857170) 9.00 Gordon (857170) 9.30 Gordon (857170) 10.00 Gordon (857170) 10.30 Gordon (857170) 11.00 Gordon (857170) 11.30 Gordon (857170) 12.00 Gordon (857170) 12.30 Gordon (857170) 1.00 Gordon (857170) 1.30 Gordon (857170) 2.00 Gordon (857170) 2



RACING 41

Doping returns to haunt National Hunt

SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9 1997

JUDO 42

Unarmed but dangerous in Paris



Coach puts old-fashioned defensive strategies to flight as squad flies in to Rome

Hoddle gets England moving

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

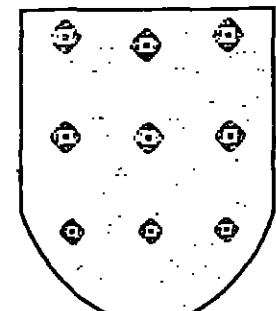
WHEN the plane entered Italian airspace, the on-board television screens began to chart England's advance on Rome. Bologna was first, then Ravenna, then Florence; and finally, just as dusk was turning into night, a landing at Ciampino Airport on the outskirts of the Eternal City. The players disembarked and the camera flashlights began to whirr.

There was a flurry of excitement when someone approached Paul Gascoigne just after he had gone through passport control and handed him a book. For a few moments, it seemed that this might be the writ that a member of the paparazzi is rumoured to be waiting to serve on him. This time, though, it was just someone asking for an autograph.

The Roman journalists, already excited after earthquake tremors were felt here early yesterday morning, hurried in a vain attempt to meet the players, who were ushered away behind a glass partition before boarding a coach and heading on to the seclusion of their hotel. The real business of preparation for the World Cup qualifying showdown against Italy on Saturday starts here, and the air of excitement surrounding the squad for England's biggest game since the European championship last year was palpable.

Earlier, the squad had arrived at Luton Airport and managed to bypass a rather bedraggled man from *The Mirror* who was dressed as St George, complete with iron helmet, chainmail and a huge red and white flag, by disembarking from the coach only when it drove on to the apron. St George had to make do with the players in the Under-21 squad, and when the photographers went into action, he posed with everyone he could.

The rain had kept the crowd of well-wishers down to a small group of the committed and those who had happened upon the occasion on their way to sunnier climes. There was a teenage girl with "Mrs Beckham" emblazoned on the



Brazilian bleed 42
Campbell's regret 44
Wembley cashes in 44

back of her Manchester United shirt, but a young boy drinking a can of Diet Coke had not quite caught the mood. His Chelsea shirt had the name Zola writ large upon it.

Inside the airport, as Italian journalists laughed at the prospect of England taking their own pasta and alphabet spaghetti with them to Italy, the Under-21 players were allowed to wander into the departure lounge to read their newspapers and occupy themselves in the amusement arcade. The favourite was a game that involved firing a gun at a screen. It was called *Time Crisis*.

Once the England party had dashed through the teeming rain to the plane, a comforting message was flashed up on the television screens. "Your holiday starts here," it said, "so please settle back and enjoy the flight." Glenn Hoddle, the coach, was nevertheless already embroiled in a deep discussion about the theory of defence, expecting perhaps,

SATURDAY
UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT
DANNY BAKER
OLIVER HOLT
LYNNE TRUSS
ROB HUGHES
on
THE BIG MATCH

the siege his side is likely to have to resist in the Olympic Stadium.

The composition of his back line — be it a back four, or his favoured back three — has been the main source of speculation. The consensus is that the places of Tony Adams, who should be confirmed as captain tomorrow, and Sol Campbell are assured, but that Gary Neville may lose his place to either Gareth Southgate or Gary Pallister.

It is hard to see the logic of that, especially as Neville performed so creditably for Manchester United against Juventus last week. His morale and his confidence are high and he has more experience of big games than the majority of 30-year-olds. Even if he is pushed out of central defence, he might displace David Beckham at right wing-back for a game where solidity will be the key. Hoddle, though, was made sure the conversation stayed purely theoretical.

"In defence," Hoddle said, "there is no one set way of playing that is right, but we have been swimming against the tide and it is about time we swam with it. We are not technically behind, in general, but in defending we are. We have always defended in zones and zonal sometimes can be a problem."

"Over the last five years, since we changed the shape of the pitch, as I like to term it, with sometimes three at the back, sometimes one up front, you are seeing different shapes in the formation of sides now, which has been done in Italy, France and Spain for a long, long time."

"You only had to break down the barrier mentally. We have now got defenders capable of playing in a back three or a back four. You have got front players that can play as a lone striker or come off into midfield. We had a stage a while ago where it was just 4-4-2 and everyone was similar, playing in straight lines."

"When we went out to play that at international level, we were just falling into opponents' hands. I remember a time when Spain had little Butragueno up front and we've got two fit Zins centre halves who weren't capable of marking that. We've got more agility now in our strong defenders."

"We'll get better when we have changed our systems from eight-year-olds to 15s. People are learning now to play in different systems. In the past, every youth team played the same way as the first team, 4-4-2, squeezing up to the halfway line. It's a miracle we achieved anything playing that way for so long."

"I always thought that when I became a coach, I would do it completely different. If we change our structure, which we've got to change for the youngsters, then I can see us technically and tactically getting better and better."



Lombardo, the Crystal Palace midfielder, stretches a point during training with the Italy squad yesterday

Blatter looks to ban tackle

GORDON TAYLOR, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, has responded coolly to plans by FIFA, the world governing body, to do away with the sliding tackle.

"It's already become more difficult for defenders with the restrictions put on the back pass, the cutting out of tackles from behind and the changes to the offside rules," Taylor

said. "The game is enjoying great popularity, partly due to the rule changes, but we don't want to devalue goals and this could be counter-productive."

Taylor was making these comments after Sepp Blatter, the FIFA secretary-general, said in an interview that "we must outlaw the tackle in the football of the future... we have to combat aggression. Players like Ronaldo are being

literally kicked to pieces and that is not acceptable."

Blatter said that the issue had already been raised with FIFA's International Board and that it would be fully discussed in March. He also said that FIFA hoped to tighten up the laws relating to backpasses, preventing goalkeepers from handling balls headed back to them, in time for the World Cup finals next year.

Maldini seeks pressure points

Cesare Maldini laughed a lot before he gave his press conference at Coverciano, Italy's training centre outside Florence, yesterday. His press officer was talking about which young singers would perform before the match against England at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Saturday and Maldini seemed amused.

Then came the questions about the game from the Italian press and one could tell that the Italy coach and the journalists saw the recent 0-0 draw in Georgia quite differently.

Italy, Maldini said, attacked, as they always did. They had made a profusion of chances but could not score. The previous day, he had insisted that announcing his team only at the last moment rather than a day or two earlier, his normal habit, was irrelevant. The players themselves knew what the team would be days before.

And the team for Saturday? He still did not know, he said. It was still forming in his mind. There were several training sessions yet to come and he would take note of these. He might divulge the team tomorrow.

What he implicitly denies, in the face of powerful crit-

Brian Glanville in Florence sees the Italy coach smile in the face of a public attack

icism, is that Italy took the field in Tbilisi in the defensive crouch, itself the consequence of his own caution.

On Saturday, though, he may be hoping for a carefree England team that, committed to attack, might leave itself open to be hit on the break, just as it was at Wembley.

There seems little doubt that he will deploy a 3-5-2 system, in which, instead of using Di Livio behind Lombardo, of Crystal Palace, he could have Di Livio on the right of his mid-

field five. Lombardo on the left. In itself, quite an adventurous strategy since neither is defensively minded.

Lombardo, asked whether he thought his place might go to Fuser, of Lazio, said: "I don't feel in competition with anyone. I accept what the manager decides."

Had Italian players improved English football, he

was asked. No, he replied. English football had improved on its own and "I hope to improve there. I hope Italy won't make mistakes, because we have the means to win it."

Di Livio, a Roman himself, believes that the crowd will be a colossal help, just as the Old Trafford crowd was to Manchester United when Juventus lost there last week.

He dismissed any idea that the Juventus defeat might affect what happens in Rome. "This is another game. Every game is a story by itself. There were no easy matches any more. In Georgia, we suffered. Everywhere, now, you won't find a team against which you can score four goals."

Would Maldini make changes during the game — at half-time, for example — if things were not going well? In such circumstances, he said he might think of putting on a

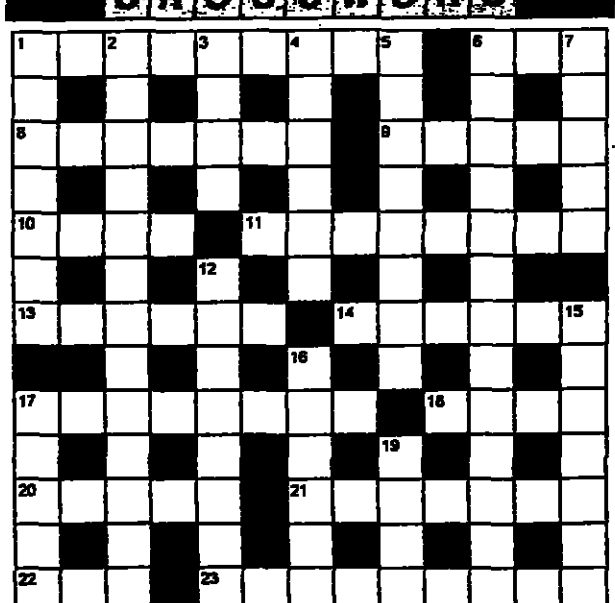
third attacking player, though he saw Enrico Chiesa, back in the squad to the exclusion of Roberto Baggio, as essentially a second striker rather than a spearhead. But at the moment, he did not even know how England would line up.

"The English," Gianfranco Zola said, "have improved on a tactical level. They are more crafty now. Since we beat them the last time, they have been piling up points, always winning. You say they aren't so good away from home? But the only points they've dropped have been at Wembley. Let's forget the old England. Their club teams, too, have been getting important results away from home in the European cups."

Christian Vieri, the probable partner for Zola in attack, also dismissed the significance of the Manchester United win. "Above all, the Italy team marks man to man, so there's no possible comparison."

On Coverciano's broad green acres, Cesare Maldini looks happy when he takes training. But pressure from the press is surely there. Significantly and unusually, the training session yesterday was barred to them.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1220

ACROSS

- 1 Dad's Army (4,5)
- 2 Bankroll plug (3)
- 3 Glowing with joy (7)
- 4 — Thomas, Welsh poet d. 1953 (5)
- 5 Lug: betting system (abbr.) (4)
- 6 Black-Caspian Sea range (8)
- 7 Oblige, force (6)
- 8 Obscenely humorous (6)
- 9 Line joining opposite corners (8)
- 10 Cries; converted stables (4)
- 11 Ooze out (5)
- 12 Half man half horse (7)
- 13 Colouring agent (3)
- 14 Intermittently (9)

DOWN

- 1 Unorthodox believer (7)
- 2 Bespoke (clothes) (4,2,7)
- 3 Seize rudely (4)
- 4 Real, genuine (6)
- 5 Imparting a lesson (8)
- 6 We may be overheard (5,4,4)
- 7 Sand hills (5)
- 8 Aircraft fuel (8)
- 9 Rain, demolish (7)
- 10 Tasting off (6)
- 11 Oppressive fear (5)
- 12 Formerly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1219

- ACROSS: 1 Parapet 5 Slog 9 Nadir 10 Unhappy 11 Feel the pinch 12 Judges 13 Section 16 Body-building 19 Lucerne 20 Pilot 21 Earl 22 Tuesday
- DOWN: 1 Pound 2 Redhead 3 Parallel bars 4 Touché 6 Lupin 7 Gryphon 8 Shepherd's pie 12 Jubilee 14 Tangled 15 Silent 17 Decor 18 Stay

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